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£25

JOHN FRANCIS,

PUBLISHER OF

THE ATHENÆUM.

LONDON :
PRINTED BY FRANCIS & CO.
TOOK'S COURT, CHANCERY LANE, E.C.



MAYALL'S ELECTRIC LIGHT

NEW BOND STREET.

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JOHN FRANCIS,

PUBLISHER OF

THE ATHENÆUM:

A LITERARY CHRONICLE OF HALF A CENTURY.

COMPILED BY

JOHN C. FRANCIS.

WITH AN

INTRODUCTORY NOTE BY H. R. FOX BOURNE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

RICHARD BENTLEY & SON,

NEW BURLINGTON STREET,

Publishers in Ordinary to Her Majesty the Queen.

1888.

TO THE
M E M O R Y
OF
CHARLES WENTWORTH DILKE,
OF
THE ATHENÆUM,

THESE PAGES ARE DEDICATED AS A SMALL TRIBUTE OF
ESTEEM BY HIS "YOUNG FRIEND,"

JOHN COLLINS FRANCIS.

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PREFACE.

SHORTLY after my father's death it was thought by many that a life so useful as his had been should not be allowed to pass away without some permanent record. I felt that I was so thoroughly unequal to such a work that I at first sought among his friends for a kindly hand to undertake it for me ; but failing from many causes to obtain this, I resolved to take the matter in hand myself.

My idea was to write a short memoir, to include some account of the part he took in obtaining the repeal of the taxes upon literature, as well as of the many other movements in which he interested himself for the general welfare of the people. In a small volume such as I proposed there would have been space for only a passing reference to the *Athenæum* ; but it was suggested to me that my father had looked upon the *Athenæum* as so completely part and parcel of himself, that a life of him would be most

incomplete without some account of the paper being included. It was thus that I commenced my first chapters on the founding of the paper, and the work became to me so interesting that I was far into my second volume before I realized that I was really compiling a sketch of the *Athenæum*. I determined, however, to bring the record down to the date of my father's death, to publish the two volumes, and presently to bring out a third, complete in itself, treating on matters more directly relating to him. It was also my intention to reserve the portrait and the autobiographical note for this third volume; but by special request of my friend Sir Charles W. Dilke its present position is retained.

In these two volumes I have only, as will be seen, been able to include a short review of General Literature, with some Science Notes. The Fine Arts, Music and the Drama, American and Foreign Literature, it has been, of course, impossible to bring into the small space of a thousand crown octavo pages. To take the Fine Arts alone, the average number of works viewed annually amounts to 13,280; of these the Salon contributes 5,000.

No reference more than necessary to illustrate current events has been made to living authors.

I am sure that it will be distinctly understood that in these pages I have not sought to claim for the *Athenæum* more than its fair share in the useful work carried on by the English press. All belong to the great army of workers, and however different may be the modes of working, it is not too much to say that the majority of the newspapers of England seek to benefit the great mass of the people, and to aid in bringing about that time when wars and contentions among the nations shall cease, and when the objects of government shall be not ambition, but the welfare and prosperity of the governed. It was to this end Charles Wentworth Dilke worked, and it was to this end my father, in his humble way, devoted his life. There was on his part no seeking for either fame or fortune, but to so live as to benefit his fellow men.

I have to express my thanks to the proprietor of the *Athenæum* for his obliging permission to reprint such articles as I pleased. I have also to thank many generous helpers, including my kind friend and publisher Mr. Bentley, Mr. H. R. Fox Bourne for writing the Introductory Note, Mr. John Randall for his valuable suggestions and for the careful way in which he has prepared the index, as well as my good friend Mr. Slate.

I will only add that I am alone responsible for this book. It has been the pleasant occupation of my hours of leisure ; and any proceeds there may be will be handed to Mr. Walter Jones, the secretary of the Newsvendors' Benevolent Institution, for the purpose of increasing their pension fund.

JOHN C. FRANCIS.

4, TOOK'S COURT,
CHANCERY LANE, E.C.

June, 1888.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

THROUGH more than fifty out of the sixty years over which the life of the *Athenæum* has already extended the late Mr. John Francis was its publisher. The careers of the paper and the man were thus concurrent, and the son of my old friend has done well in offering as a tribute to his memory this valuable and interesting record of the important services rendered to modern literature by the famous journal with which he was so long and so intimately associated.

As a monument of Mr. Francis's work, it is true these volumes are incomplete; for they tell us hardly anything about Mr. Francis's occupations outside the *Athenæum* office, or even within its doors. Of these, however, we may expect a sufficient account in the supplementary volume, which is to contain the personal details, that are but slightly and partially indicated in the autobiographical

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chapter, as modest as it is brief, with which the book opens. Mr. Francis was a zealous Nonconformist, a pioneer and a champion in various religious and philanthropic movements, for which his name is held in honour by a wide circle, and which deserve chronicling for the instruction of the public; and the millions to whom cheap newspapers and cheap books are now accessible need scarcely be reminded of the great debt they owe to him as one of the foremost and most persistent opponents of the "taxes on knowledge," the last of which was removed by the abolition of the paper duty in 1861. These and other subjects, hardly touched upon in these volumes, afford ample matter for the promised sequel.

My own acquaintance with Mr. Francis was limited to the last nine or ten years of his life, and there must be hundreds able to bear better testimony than I can to his private worth. But perhaps there are not many who have a livelier and more grateful recollection of his strict integrity and courtesy, both as a man of business and as a genial companion after office hours. A gentleman in the true sense of the term—amiable in his bearing, gracious in his talk, with a well-stored mind, and a quiet dignity that showed itself in all his actions—he won the respect of those who saw but little of

him, and was most admired by those who knew him most intimately.

Though these volumes relate the story of the *Athenæum* with such completeness and accuracy as would have been impossible without command of abundant sources of information, they are not an official record. Mr. J. C. Francis has merely extracted from the material before him so much as he deemed most helpful in showing how the *Athenæum* has adhered to and improved upon the high purpose with which it was started in 1828 by James Silk Buckingham, who aimed, as he said, to make it, "like the Athenæum of antiquity, the resort of the most distinguished philosophers, historians, orators, and poets of our day." Much more than the progress of the journal, however, is here chronicled. Its reviews of books, its obituary notices, and its original articles on matters of interest in literature, science, and art, with occasional and cautious diversion into the fields of politics and social turmoil, have enabled the compiler to furnish a most instructive and a really comprehensive view of the general progress of intellectual life throughout nearly three score years.

In that progress the *Athenæum* has had a remarkable share. When it was established the only rival in the field was the *Literary*

Gazette, which, in weekly numbers of sixteen pages, professed to give "a clear and instructive picture of the moral and literary improvement of the times, and a complete and authentic chronological literary record for reference." The *Literary Gazette* was in some ways a useful publication, to which Barry Cornwall, George Crabbe, and many other able writers contributed; but its honesty may be gauged by a letter from William Jerdan, its editor at that time, which has lately been printed by Mr. Stapleton in 'Some Official Correspondence of George Canning.' "I occupy a singular position in the literary world," Jerdan wrote to the new Prime Minister in 1827, "and may claim the merit of some tact and discretion, if not of some talent, in having made my journal so widely influential. The result is that from the highest to almost the lowest class of public writers I am of sufficient importance to possess a very considerable weight with them. From book authors, through all gradations of the periodical press, it is not a boast to assert that I could do much to modify opinions, heat friends, and cool enemies. I am on terms of personal intimacy with forty-nine out of fifty of those who direct the leading journals of the day, and I can from time to time oblige them all. Thus situated, I need not assure you that I have not

failed to do what I could where your interests were involved." But Jerdan thought, or was not ashamed to urge, that he could do more if it was made worth his while. "Should you think well of what I have stated," he said at the close of his letter, "and find me eligible for any mark of favour which would enable me to associate an efficient coadjutor in the *Literary Gazette*, and take myself a somewhat higher station in society, I would without doubt or fear of success undertake to produce very beneficial consequences throughout the whole machinery of the press. *It requires but cultivation.*"

Jerdan offered to Canning no baser service than Gifford, Croker, and others found it profitable to render, or than sound politicians like Sir Walter Scott deemed it the duty of a Tory Government to accept and pay well for; but there was room for a rival of the *Literary Gazette* in which better things than underhand partisanship should be "cultivated." James Silk Buckingham's *Athenæum* met a want, though even it, under its projector's short and unbusiness-like direction, was not altogether free from suspicion; and, notwithstanding the talent thrown into it by men like Frederick Denison Maurice, John Sterling, and their brilliant associates, its early life was unhappy, and

scarcely dignified, until it emerged from what Carlyle describes as "the highly uncommercial management it had now got into." The change was made in 1830, when the paper passed into the hands of Charles Wentworth Dilke, who at once vastly improved the quality of its articles, soon reduced the price from eightpence to fourpence, and by these means obtained for it a wide circulation and great influence as a critical journal.

Mr. Dilke was the real founder of the *Athenæum*, editing it himself till 1846, when he assigned the work to T. K. Hervey, in order that he might give closer attention to the *Daily News*, only saved from premature death by his energy as its manager during three years. He always kept careful oversight of the business arrangements of his own journal; but he had an able assistant almost from the first in John Francis, who, entering his employment as junior clerk at the age of twenty in 1831, was quickly promoted to be his chief adviser and trusty representative in the publishing office. Mr. Dilke's aim from the first was to give cheap matter as well as good matter to his readers. "Mercy on us!" wrote his friend John Hamilton Reynolds, when he reduced the price by half, "after the cost of writers, printers, duty, and paper, what in the name of the practical part of a farthing remains

to report upon as profit?" "You already give too much for the money," Allan Cunningham complained when, four years later, the size was increased from sixteen to twenty-four pages. But experience proved that the enterprising proprietor's generous policy was also astute. The *Athenæum* vanquished all its old rivals, and has held its ground well against all new rivals that, with or without literary criticism as their chief or only feature, have sought to emulate its success.

Mr. Dilke's own writings, weighty, but not numerous, and the lines of study that he favoured, gave a character to the *Athenæum* as a whole. The 'Papers of a Critic,' edited by his grandson, though only in part reprinted from the *Athenæum*, show the sort of work that he put into it. It was pioneer work in the direction of historic truth and literary accuracy, by which our own generation is honourably distinguished, notwithstanding the profusion of tawdry, slipshod, false, and frivolous work that is also produced, and is found profitable enough to warrant its producers in continuing the supply. The editors and critics of the *Athenæum* were human, and the judgments they passed on new books, and on new movements in general, were not, of course, always free from bias; but they contrived to exercise a most

healthy influence on current literature and current thought, and to be, over the area they dominated, a "punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well." Not the least interesting of the many extracts that Mr. J. C. Francis has brought together are those which tell how the *Athenæum* welcomed, and on occasion wisely counselled, authors like Charlotte Brontë and Mrs. Browning, Mrs. Gaskell and George Eliot—to mention but four names of one sex—and scores of others who have since risen to eminence and achieved fame outlasting their own lives.

The *Athenæum* has always been, however, and was in former days more than it is now, much besides a merely literary review. A brilliant record might be compiled of the valuable services it has rendered to science and art, to the spread of education, and the general advancement of society, by special efforts and particular exploits as well as in the ordinary course of its comments, week by week, on passing topics. To mention only a few items in the chronicle of a decade now more than three decades out of date, the *Athenæum* has left its mark on the history of modern English progress by its persistent advocacy of Arctic exploration incident to the search for Sir John Franklin, by its demands for the hygienic inquiries and reforms necessitated

by the plague of cholera in 1849 and other years, by its insistence on the establishment of the Public Record Office in 1847, by its arguments in favour of penny banks and mechanics' institutes, and by its zealous encouragement of the Great Exhibition of 1851, and of its sequel, the Crystal Palace at Sydenham. Such services, and others like them, are worth remembering with gratitude.

Though Mr. J. C. Francis brings his narrative down to the date of his father's death, he has discreetly avoided all mention of living contributors to the *Athenæum*, and any comparison between it and modern competitors in the now widened field of journalism—a widening which has been largely due to the example set by the *Athenæum* itself, and yet more to the cheapening of the mechanical appliances of literature and the abolition of fiscal restraints, which its veteran publisher did so much to secure. I should be rash and impertinent were I to venture upon ground from which the author has for manifestly good reasons held aloof. Yet it may be permitted to me as one who has now and then been able to peep behind the scenes, but who speaks solely on his own responsibility, here to bear testimony to the zeal and honesty with which the traditions dating from Mr. Dilke's first taking charge of the *Athenæum*, and of Mr.

Francis's employment as its publisher, have been since maintained. Daily as well as weekly papers, in the provinces as well as in London, now vie with the *Athenæum* in the reviewing of new books, new plays, and new pictures, and in the other work which, when it began, it did almost alone. This department of journalism, like all others, has been revolutionized during the past half century, and especially during the past ten or fifteen years, and the revolution still proceeds. Even authors, artists, and others, however, who may feel that the *Athenæum* is not at all times so kind to them as they would like, or as they may think they deserve, must acknowledge the rigid impartiality with which it is conducted, and the fixed desire shown in it to be both just and generous in all its criticisms.

H. R. FOX BOURNE.

June, 1888.

ORIGINAL PROSPECTUS.

THE ATHENÆUM,

A

New Literary Gazette,

AND

WEEKLY CRITICAL REVIEW.

*To be published on WEDNESDAY MORNINGS, Price
Eightpence, and to commence on the 2d of January, 1828.*

Mr. BUCKINGHAM, Proprietor and Editor of 'THE SPHYNX' Newspaper,—having witnessed with feelings of just pride and satisfaction, that the Appeal made, when that Paper was first established, to the Friends of Impartiality and Independence in POLITICS, has been answered by the general confidence and approbation of the Public,—has been induced to believe that the extension of the same principles to a Publication purely LITERARY, would be equally acceptable to a very large class of general readers, and be crowned with the same success.

In conjunction, therefore, with some of the first Literary Writers of the day—who have entered into an ASSOCIATION for this purpose, holding themselves responsible for the impartiality and fidelity of their strictures, and engaging to stand or fall with the issue of the undertaking, thus connecting themselves most closely with its fate, and becoming deeply interested in the conservation of its character and fame,—MR. BUCKINGHAM has made arrangements for the publication, from the commencement

of the ensuing year, of a New Weekly Review, to be called 'THE ATHENÆUM,' and to be devoted exclusively to Literature, Science, and the Arts, in all their various departments.

It will be of the exact form, size, and general appearance of 'THE SPHYNX;' and be printed in the same description of type, and on the same quality of paper. As it will be under the same direction also as that Journal, —though devoted exclusively to Literary Essays and Reviews,—it is presumed that the character already acquired by the *one* will be a sufficient pledge for at least equal talent and independence in the *other*. And, for the additional attractions of variety and entertainment, the varied powers and pursuits of the different individuals who have entered into this LITERARY ASSOCIATION, will, it is confidently anticipated, amply provide. More than this it is thought unnecessary to say, especially as the Work itself will soon enable the Public to judge of its claims to their preference.

Without desiring even to advert to any other Literary Journals, except for the purpose of rendering the size, arrangement, and comparative price of 'THE ATHENÆUM' more readily understood,—it is thought necessary to state, that its ample sheet will include a much *Greater Quantity* of printed matter than any existing Literary Publication:—that its arrangement will provide for a larger portion of *Original Writing* than is now presented by the best:—that the number of its permanent Associates is likely to ensure *More Variety* of style and materials than is usually found in any single periodical:—that it will be published on a day (Wednesday) when *no other Literary Journal will appear*, so as frequently to anticipate the Saturday's Papers in Literary Intelligence:—and that, with all these evident advantages, IT WILL NOT

EXCEED THE PRICE OF THE SMALLEST, OR LEAST ATTRACTIVE OF THE CLASS, being, for the unstamped copies, Eightpence per Number, and for the stamped copies (which are only necessary when required to be forwarded to a distance from town by the General Post), One Shilling.

It will be furnished with Title-pages, Tables of Contents, Indexes, &c., so arranged as to form two handsome Royal Quarto Volumes, of upwards of 400 pages each, (at less than eighteen shillings per volume), in the year, and be as ornamental to the Library as it is hoped it will be useful and interesting at the Breakfast-table or the Evening fire-side.

To prevent the disappointment which occurred to many, who have never been able to complete their Sets of 'THE SPHYNX,' from omitting to order the First Number in time, it is particularly requested that all who may desire to receive 'THE ATHENÆUM' from its commencement, at the opening of the ensuing year, will give orders to their several Booksellers or News-Agents without delay, so that the number of copies required may be provided at the first impression.

It may be added, that 'THE SPHYNX' will continue exactly as before, devoted chiefly to Politics and Miscellaneous News, but still embracing such a portion of the lighter Literature of the day as may serve to vary agreeably the grave and important nature of its Political Disquisitions; leaving to 'THE ATHENÆUM' the ample field of CRITICAL REVIEWING, in which Independence and Impartiality are quite as much demanded by the Public Voice as in any other department of Literary labour.

These two Publications being perfectly distinct, the

previous possession of the one will not entail the necessary possession of the other. They will each stand on their own separate and respective merits, and be identified only as under the general direction of the same individual, who pledges himself for the strict *Integrity* of their general character, and for the complete exemption of both from those sinister interests, which perpetually invade, and too frequently destroy, THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE PERIODICAL PRESS.

‘THE ORIENTAL HERALD,’ which is published Monthly, continues to be devoted to discussions on the Affairs and Government of India, and the British Dependencies in the East. The approaching termination of the East India Company’s Charter, and the question that will speedily arise, as to the justice or policy of renewing or abolishing its Monopoly of Trade and Intercourse with India and China, must make the possession of such a Publication important to all Merchants, Manufacturers, and Public Men of every description, who may desire to avail themselves of the latest and most accurate information from these countries, and of whatever relates to the Freedom of Commerce with the vast empires of Asia, and its countless millions of consumers, who are now prevented by the influence of that Monopoly from opening their markets to the skill, enterprise, and industry of British Traders, though every other Nation, except our own, enjoys uninterrupted intercourse with them all.

Orders for either of the Works enumerated above, if addressed to the Office of Publication, 147, Strand, London ; or to Bobée Ingray, bookseller, 14, Rue Richelieu, Paris, will be carefully attended to.

MEMOIRS

OF

JOHN FRANCIS.

CHAPTER I.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

BORN July 18, 1811. Father, James Parker Francis, of Saffron Walden ; mother, Elizabeth Perkins, of Ware. At the time of my birth they were both members of a small Independent church meeting at Collier's Rents, Borough, then under the pastorate of the Rev. James Knight, sometimes designated the *terse* little man of the Borough. At this chapel my birth was registered, and I believe the register, with many others of a like kind, is preserved at the Record Office, Fetter Lane.

Birth
July 18,
1811.

TO MY SON JOHN.

DEAR JOHN,—

You have often asked me to jot down roughly some early recollections of the life of

my father and mother. I now attempt to do so, although I do not think I have much to say that will interest you.

Parentage. If I were to begin by saying, "It is but the short and simple annals of the poor," I feel I should be pretty near the mark. If I have been rightly informed, my father was a native of Saffron Walden, in Essex. His father must have died when he was quite young, for I never heard of him. His mother, Susannah Francis, daughter of an Independent minister, seems to have lived all her long life at Walden, and was buried in the churchyard there, having reached the good old age of ninety-five. The hymn inserted in the family Bible was sung as a part of the service at her funeral.

My father was apprenticed to a leather dresser in Essex, perhaps a relative; and became a proficient in that trade. He married when very young Elizabeth Perkins, daughter of Thomas Perkins, gun-flint maker, of Ware. After marriage they both came to London, and settled in Bermondsey. Here the children were born and there are now two survivors—my two sisters, widows.*

My father and mother were both quite early in life impressed with religious convictions, and they taught all their family such principles for the

* One has since died.

guidance of their lives. They became members of a small Nonconformist church meeting at Collier's Rents (a lane bordering on Kent Street, in the Borough, and close to the Marshalsea Prison), then under the pastorate of the Rev. James Knight. Here I was christened, and here for many years my parents attended public worship. My father was a man of prayer, and delighted to give his spare time to works of mercy. I am now speaking of between sixty and seventy years ago.

At this time the Sunday-school system was making headway in London, especially under the guiding influence of the Rev. Rowland Hill, of Surrey Chapel. One of the most famous of these schools was founded in Kent Street, Borough. Here, when I was but four years old, I was taken by my father, who at the same time became one of its teachers, the superintendent being that excellent and devoted man Mr. William West,* who during the long period of nearly

Sunday
schools.
Rowland
Hill.

William
West.

* William West was for fifty years clerk in the Borough Bank, until its business was transferred to the London and Westminster. He devoted his leisure hours to the moral and social elevation of the people living in Kent Street and its adjacent courts and alleys, then the St. Giles's of the Borough, and after ten years of hard toil one hundred and eighty boys and girls, both on Sundays and week nights, received regular instruction. A freehold site was then secured, and a spacious school house erected to

sixty-two years continued his loving work in that locality. I wrote a notice of his life for the *Christian World* newspaper, and subsequently a short memoir was published, written by the Rev. Newman Hall.

James
Parker
Francis.

My father's skill as a workman always obtained for him a high position in the leather-dressing work at Bermondsey and elsewhere. He had no ambition to become a master, but he felt a deep interest in the well-being of both masters and men. For twenty-five years he filled the post of secretary to the Leather-Dressers' Trades Union, during which period he enjoyed the confidence of both parties, and his timely advice was often highly acceptable to all concerned. His duties as secretary involved a considerable amount of labour. This was cheerfully given without fee or reward, hence its great value. When he resigned the secretariat his portrait was painted and presented to him by the men. The attitude

Secretary of
Leather-
Dressers'
Trades
Union.

Presentation
of his
portrait.

hold five hundred scholars. One class for writing was conducted by Mr. West at six in the morning. The good work thus commenced in 1804 was continued under his direct superintendence for sixty-two years. While teaching on Sunday, the 28th of January, 1866, he was taken seriously ill and had to be removed from the building; and on Saturday, the 10th of February, at the age of eighty-two, he passed away. "Spell it, dear," were the words he uttered, as though addressing a child, as mind and memory failed.

is intended to represent him addressing the men from the book of rules prepared by himself ; he is explaining to them that by the observance of those rules the interests of both masters and men would be promoted. These rules were distributed from time to time throughout the kingdom. The little book was made into a small brown-paper parcel, and as a child it was my work, as soon as I could be trusted, to take these parcels to the various coach offices in the City, and pay twopence booking fee upon each as directed by my father, their delivery to the corresponding societies being thus secured. The portrait for many years after his decease was looked upon with high gratification by my mother, and I now know it will be cared for in the hands of my eldest son, to whom it is given.*

* While James Parker Francis was secretary he rendered valuable service. The disputes between the masters and men were often most serious, and he frequently received threatening letters because he would not give his sanction to the funds being made use of except for those who were really entitled to the advantages of the Union. On resigning he issued a most spirited address, giving excellent advice as to the future conduct of affairs. It is strange that with his great ability he should have been so free from personal ambition. He was a man of deep religious feeling, and guided his conduct and his family as nearly as possible by what he considered to be the teaching

Education.

With regard to my life in Bermondsey, at about two years of age I was sent to a dame's school in Long Lane; afterwards I was promoted to the school of a Mr. Painter in the same neighbourhood. He was a good and careful trainer of his scholars, and his school would at the present time come under the designation of a middle-class school. From this school I went, upon a presentation, to a Nonconformist of the New Testament. He seemed to take literally the injunction "to take no thought for the morrow," to pay his way, to live honestly in the sight of all men; the rest he left with the fullest confidence. With all his sound practical common sense, and notwithstanding the squalid surroundings of his home, he had a mind full of poetry and the most beautiful ideas, and was very fond in his few leisure moments of committing them to paper. To speak to him, to place your hand in his, was to convince you at once you were in the presence of not only a remarkable man, but one who was truth and goodness itself. He died very suddenly, on the 24th of August, 1850, aged seventy-three years, and was buried at St. James's, Bermondsey, on Sunday, September 1st. On the following Sunday, at Collier's Rents Chapel, Dr. Burden preached his funeral sermon on "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord." He said it was always a pleasure to him to look on the venerable countenance of the departed, and referred to his noble, self-sacrificing disposition, his simplicity of character, and his perfect child-like reliance upon the will of his heavenly Father. The widow, Elizabeth Francis, died October 13th, 1868, aged ninety-three years and seven months.

freeschool in Unicorn Yard, Tooley Street, leaving this when between thirteen and fourteen. This is, indeed, all the school teaching I ever received.

On my leaving school the secretary, Mr. John Cooper, obtained for me employment at Marlborough's Newspaper Office, Ave Maria Lane. This service I entered at the end of 1823 or beginning of 1824, and remained there, residing in the house, until I went to the *Athenæum* in 1831.

Apprenticed
to Marl-
borough's.

Before saying good - bye to Bermondsey I may say that its history is quite a study. I well remember the quaint old tower and portico, also the tolling at 8 o'clock every night of what at home we used to call the Curfew bell, and after that the firing of a pistol over the graveyard as a warning to so-called body-snatchers. Kent Street Sunday School being associated with my earliest recollections, a word in reference to the neighbourhood as it first struck me as a child may have interest. This street, which now has a new name, runs from Long Lane by the side of St. George's Church to the Kent Road. The shops on either side were occupied by marine store dealers, bellows-makers, clog and patten makers, with chimney-sweepers in abundance. On both sides of the street there were numerous courts and alleys, filled by a dense and depraved population. At

Bermondsey.

the top of the street as evening approached the patrol would take his stand with lantern and staff ready, calling "Patrol!" "Patrol!" Behind him would collect passengers who wished to go that way, and thus protected the journey was made backwards and forwards. The introduction of gas for street lighting, and an improved watch, and afterwards police, destroyed the patrol's occupation.

Sunday
School
Society for
Southwark.

Under the auspices of the Rev. Rowland Hill the Sunday School Society for Southwark was formed, apart from the Sunday School Union, and I remember five schools flourished under its fostering care, namely, Surrey Chapel, Kent Street, Castle Yard, Crosby Row, and the Mint. All these schools soon became filled with children. One school—the Mint—was, I think, designated a "fragment" school, and this was under the care of a poor but good man, a Mr. Cranfield, who laboured at his work for many years, and thus laid the foundation of our ragged schools.

Ragged
schools,
origin of.

Mr. Cran-
field.

I well remember the gathering of the trades in this locality to form a deputation to express sympathy with Queen Caroline, the leaders of the procession being decorated with bright ribbons for the occasion. I also remember the indignation expressed here, as elsewhere, at the passing of the new Marriage Act.

The new
Marriage
Act.

Food at the time was scarce and dear, and the Act was intended to prevent increase of population and to hinder early marriages. This Act could not long be enforced. It required that the names of such as desired marriage should be posted up outside the church doors. This was done, but the papers were immediately torn down. Again the trial was made, and by way of protection a wire frame was placed over the placard containing the names ; but such quantities of mud were inserted between the bars that all names were obliterated, and as no doubt this was the case throughout the kingdom, the old law with regard to marriage was re-enacted.

At Marlborough's newspaper office I soon learned to take an interest in the contents of the various papers and the peculiar features of many of them. The façade of the office had these words painted up :—

Marl-
borough's.

MARLBOROUGH'S NEWSPAPER OFFICE.

NEWSPAPERS SENT FREE BY POST TO ALL PARTS OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM.

This freedom consisted of a fourpenny compulsory stamp and a frank upon the cover, easily obtained of some peer, Earl Grey's being in use at Marlborough's.

During the agitation for reform I witnessed repeated demonstrations of the London roughs.

Reform
agitation.

Upon one occasion Marlborough's messengers found it impossible to reach the Strand office for evening papers, returning without a supply. Although this was not a part of my duty, I volunteered to attempt to obtain the papers. Mounting on the top of an omnibus, I reached Fetter Lane. Here the excitement was intense. Temple Bar was closed, the City police being on one side, the metropolitan on the other. The mob, however, determined to force the gate. As it was at times opened and closed the cheering was renewed, and thus stage by stage the omnibus moved on. At length by a desperate effort the gate yielded, all hats were ordered off, the omnibus passed through, and the Strand was gained. The design of the mob was to reach the Houses of Parliament in force.

The
Athenæum,
1831.

In the *Athenæum* of August, 1831, I observed an advertisement for a junior clerk at that office, and after an interview with Mr. Dilke and Mr. Holmes an engagement was concluded, and within a very few months the commercial department was placed in my hands, and has so continued.

Dr. Rippon,
1828.

Carter Lane.

In the year 1828 I became a member of the church of which Dr. Rippon was pastor, meeting in the well-known chapel in Carter Lane, Tooley Street. For three years previously I had been a teacher in the Sunday school. At this period

London was but very partially lighted with gas, the smaller streets having dim oil lamps. The latter was the case with Carter Lane. One winter's night going down the lane I was attacked by three roughs, who were standing close against the wall so as not to be seen. They gave me a blow on the head and stole my hat. I received no further injury, as I outran them. I borrowed a cap in the schoolroom for the night. The chapel, and indeed the whole of the lane, was destroyed shortly after to make room for the approaches to the new London Bridge, and in May, 1833, the new chapel was opened for the church and congregation in New Park Street. Here the Church was again united, and I became superintendent of the Sunday school, and continued in the office for seven years. After this I became the secretary to the visiting association for the poor neighbouring courts and alleys, including the Skin Market district, the Bear Gardens, &c.

New Park
Street
Chapel,
opened 1833.

Dr. Rippon died at the age of eighty-four, in 1836, having been pastor of the church during sixty years, and was succeeded by the Rev. Joseph Angus.

Dr. Rippon's
death.

For some years I was one of the secretaries to the South London branch of the Sunday School Union, and in that capacity I originated measures in South London, in the interests of

Appointed
Secretary to
South Lon-
don Branch
of Sunday
School
Union.

the children of the poor attending Sunday schools, for the repeal of the Corn Laws. Non-conformist members came to London to show the distressed state of the people in the provinces owing to this monopoly — how homes were being broken up, and children kept from attending school. It was under these circumstances that the Rev. Baptist Noel wrote his pamphlet, he then being in connexion with the Church of England. This pamphlet caused him to be made chaplain to the Queen. The excitement was great, and the military were sent into the manufacturing districts to quell the discontent of the people. As they passed through Wellington Street to the railway station, the people who had assembled to witness their departure called to the soldiers to remember they were going to a people in want of bread.

Strange to say, the Sunday School Union remonstrated against the action of South London ; notwithstanding, however, the latter went on with the work. The Rev. James Sherman, of Surrey Chapel, aided the movement, and the example was extensively followed.

In my capacity as secretary I also originated the opposition to Sir James Graham's clauses in his Factory Education Bill, and I may here refer to the following letter from the Baptist paper the *Freeman* of September 8th, 1876, as

Corn Laws.

Baptist Noel
made Chap-
lain to the
Queen.

Sunday
School
Union op-
poses repeal
of Corn
Laws.

Sir James
Graham's
Factory
Education
Bill.

indicating my present views in respect to a national system of education, as well as the principle that actuated me at the time stated :—

National
education.

The Forthcoming School Board Elections.

SIRS,—Cardinal Manning approves the educational policy of the Government. It gives effect to the old idea of levelling up, with the advantage that, with priestly skill and energy, it may be turned to good account in the interests of his Church, and, I may add, for the promotion of other undesirable sectarian purposes.

In November next the election for School Boards must take place ; it is, therefore, to my mind of the last importance that our Nonconformist journals should give forth no uncertain sound as to the men to be elected. The addresses to electors should by this portion of the press especially be carefully scrutinized. We all know the use that is to be made of the cry about increased rates caused by the so called extravagant expenditure of the School Board, to be accompanied by crafty assertions as to the advantages of the voluntary system, this system being falsely paraded as a bait to voters. I trust that you will permit me to point out to Liberal candidates that the time has come to address their constituents upon a more excellent way. I may ask this inasmuch as I was one of the first to take action in opposing the Bill of Sir James Graham, being at that time one of the honorary secretaries of the Sunday School Union for an important district of the metropolis. I have, therefore, regarded with much interest every legislative enactment from that period upon the education question, and I now feel that the time has come when the arrogant assumptions of so many men holding important positions in the Established Church should be met by the demand for the disendow-

ment of the Established Church, and the appropriation of its surplus revenues to promote the free education of the people. In all probability the great change here advocated, together with the reform of our educational endowments, would provide sufficient funds for this purpose, and release at the same time the ratepayer from the burden of which he now complains.

Much also might be said as to the social position of the men to be chosen. They should be neither clergymen of the Church of England nor Nonconformist ministers. What is really wanted is clear-headed, intelligent laymen, having a thorough appreciation of Christian principle and earnestness in the matter of popular education.

I hesitate, however, to trespass upon your space by a further discussion.

JOHN FRANCIS.

Highgate Road, N.W., Sept. 5, 1876.

The
Examiner.
Taxes on
the Press,
1830.

In 1830 the *Examiner* thus printed its price :

Paper and Print	...	3 <i>d.</i>	} 7 <i>d.</i>
Taxes on Knowledge		4 <i>d.</i>	

This attracted my attention, and induced me to look closely into the fiscal restrictions upon the newspaper press. At that time the duty imposed was as follows:—Stamp upon each sheet, 4*d.*; stamp upon each advertisement, 3*s.* 6*d.* The advertisement duty upon literary journals which desired postal facilities was double. There was also a duty of 3*d.* per pound upon the paper. Upon common paper, such as brown packing paper, the duty was only 1½*d.*

The *Athenæum* was the first paper to war against these taxes systematically.

The
Athenæum.

The French Revolution of 1830, coupled with the demand for parliamentary reform, gave an immense impulse to the circulation of newspapers in England; hence the establishment of unstamped papers, their battles with the Government upon their issue, and the ultimate triumph for partial freedom by the Act of 1836. By this Act the advertisement duty was reduced to 1s. 6d., the compulsory stamp to 1d., and the paper duty to 1½d. per pound.

French
Revolution,
1830.

The Act of
1836.

No systematic attempt to disturb the law upon the press was made until 1849, when two societies were formed—one to attack the whole of the taxes and to denounce them as against the progress of knowledge, the other with a view to protest against them one at a time, taking the advertisement duty as affecting trade in the first instance. How entire freedom was at length secured in 1861 is well known, and there are many papers in my possession showing the work in detail.

The committee formed pretty much by myself, and so carried on, was designated the London Committee for Obtaining the Repeal of the Advertisement Duty. Subsequently I worked for the abolition of the compulsory stamp, and then formed the Society for Promoting the

The London
Committee
for
Obtaining
the Repeal
of the
Advertise-
ment Duty,
1849.

- Compulsory Stamp. Paper Duty. Repeal of the Paper Duty, obtaining one hundred members of Parliament as vice-presidents, with associations in Ireland and Scotland. With the late John Cassell and Henry Vizetelly I visited for this purpose Dublin and Edinburgh. (See reports in the Irish and Scotch papers, also of the deputation to the then Premier, Lord Derby.)
- Bloomsbury Chapel opened 1849. Upon the opening of Bloomsbury Chapel in the year 1849, under the pastorate of the Rev. William Brock, I removed my fellowship from New Park Street, chiefly on account of the distance. I was at once invited to superintend and arrange the foundation of the Sunday school. This I did by the formation of a committee to canvas the neighbourhood, the issue of an address, &c. At the end of three months there was a fair attendance of children, with good prospect of a growing increase.
- Superintendent of Sunday school. I now took charge of the senior Bible class for boys, collecting some ten to twenty in the room at the end of the schoolroom. I relinquished this work to form a district visiting association for the vast district of St. Giles's, this being in aid of the mission already at work under the direction of the Rev. G. W. McCree. By him I was specially directed to the importance of Christian work in connexion with the kitchens in the neighbourhood of
- Takes senior Bible class.
- Mr. McCree.

St. Giles's
kitchens.

Queen Street, these kitchens being filled with men of the lowest and most degraded character. In the course of a short time the work was deemed by the church of so much importance that upwards of forty members were engaged in it. Numbers were rescued from their state of degradation; a special fund was opened for fallen females, so that their cases could be met, and during the time I superintended the work forty were rescued.

My association with the visitors was of the most happy character. There was a spirit of devotedness from year to year manifested during the eleven years of my connexion with them at once cheering and appropriate. Upon my resignation the visitors presented me with a silver inkstand as a memento of their regard. I parted from them with sincere regret, and I have always highly appreciated this mark of their friendship. The inkstand bears the following inscription: — “Presented to John Francis, Esq., by the members of the Bloomsbury Chapel District Visiting Association, as a token of their Christian love and esteem, and an acknowledgment of his indefatigable exertions as their superintendent in advancing the spiritual and temporal interests of the poor of St. Giles’s during a period of nearly ten years. October 18th, 1860.”

1861.
Illness of
his only
daughter.

In the year 1861 I gave up the work, being compelled to take this course by the illness of my dear daughter and the many months of her residence with her mother at Hastings.

1862.
Removal
from
Wellington
Street.

In 1862 I removed from Wellington Street to Canonbury. On account of distance my attendance at Bloomsbury was much interrupted, and for several years we had sittings at

Dr. Allon.

Union Chapel. Dr. Allon's congregation were engaged in important work having for its object the improvement of the condition of the poor in Spitalfields. In connexion with this work I paid visits to that district. At this time the people of Spitalfields were stricken with cholera, and the most active measures were taken by the church and congregation to mitigate its virulence. Nothing daunted either the teachers in the schools or the visitors to the neighbourhood. All the work was fully continued, a part of the buildings being appropriated for dispensing medicines and advice. Bad water, bad drainage, crowded dwellings, and poor food had made havoc with the people. Cleanliness, medicines, and a more generous living soon brought the disease under control. Printed notices were issued to the effect that "*no* water should be used until previously boiled." Church, chapel, and poor-law guardians were efficiently at work in this matter.

Cholera in
Spitalfields.

In 1868 I removed to Burghley Road, Highgate Road. The omnibuses offering greater facilities to attend at Bloomsbury Chapel, we again joined that church, and continued there until 1877.

1868.
Removes to
Highgate
Road.

My friend Mr. Coxeter having presented a freehold site for a Baptist Chapel in the Highgate Road, a building committee was formed, Mr. Joseph Salter acting as secretary. Upon his death I was requested to take his place. I did so until the building was completed in February, 1877, when the membership of my dear wife and myself was transferred from Bloomsbury.

Highgate
Road Chapel
opened
1877.

The Autobiographical Notes left by John Francis finish here.

CHAPTER II.

THE FOUNDING OF THE ATHENÆUM.

The
Athenæum
founded by
Buckingham
1828.

THE history of the founding of the *Athenæum* is a singular and varied one. There had been a literary paper with this title started by Dr. Aikin in 1807, but it died in 1809. The originator of the later paper, Mr. James Silk Buckingham*—a man of roving and restless dispo-

* Mr. James Silk Buckingham was born August 25th, 1786. In 1812, passing the Mansion House, he noticed that a meeting was being held in reference to the renewal of the charter of the East India Company, then about to expire. He went in and found Mr. Alderman Waithman speaking strongly against the monopoly, and advocating free trade with India. This produced a great impression upon him, and when, in 1816, travelling in India without a licence, he was banished by order of the Company, he determined to do all in his power to sweep away this restriction, and started the *Calcutta Journal* to advocate his views; but in 1823 the attacks made in its columns upon the monopoly caused him to be again expelled. He represented Sheffield in the Radical interest 1832-37, and died, after a life of extraordinary vicissitude and adventure, on June 30th, 1855. The Court of Directors of the East India Company made amends for their former ill treatment by granting him a pension. He had also 200*l.* a year from the Civil List.

sition, fond of travel and adventure, and with a love of change—was the last person one would have expected to have embarked on an enterprise requiring so much quiet, constant, and persistent labour to secure any chance of success.

He was already the proprietor of the *Sphinx*, The *Sphinx*. “a journal of politics, literature, and news,” published twice a week, on Wednesday and Saturday evenings, price 7*d.*; of the *Oriental Herald*, The *Oriental Herald*. “confined chiefly to the discussion of India and its affairs,” an octavo magazine of 200 pages, published monthly at 5*s.*; also of the *Verulam*, The *Verulam*. “a weekly periodical of scientific information alone,” price 1*s.* stamped and 8*d.* unstamped.

To these, on Wednesday, the 2nd of January, 1828, he added the *Athenæum*. All the papers were published at the same office, 147, Strand, close to Somerset House. Dr. Stebbing, in the *Athenæum* of the 19th of January, 1878, states that he was one of the band of literary men engaged with Mr. Buckingham in the very first planning of the new journal, and in shaping the mode of its publication. He and Charles Knight* promised

Dr.
Stebbing.

Charles
Knight.

* Mr. J. Macfarlane, in a letter of February, 1884, to the late Mr. Swift, printer, of Newton Street, Holborn, relates that he was engaged in the printing office as maker up, and while at work on the first number “my

their best help, and the agreement was that they and other contributors should be paid according to the standard remuneration for articles in good periodicals. The price of the paper was 8*d.*, or if stamped to go by post, 1*s.*

Mr. Buckingham in the first number issued a bold and spirited address announcing himself as editor, and part proprietor with Mr. Colburn. Colburn: probably rivals will "insinuate that the Literary independence of the *Athenæum* will be endangered by the union. Let them endeavour to create this impression as they may. The answer, and the antidote, are both at hand. And first, Mr. Colburn has, in the most open and explicit manner, disclaimed all exercise of authority, or interference, even in the minutest particular, as to any matter connected with the Literary management of the Work, leaving to me the sole and undivided power of doing whatever I may think just in this respect. Secondly, his pecuniary interest in the property is not greater than my own; so that I being

respected friend the late Mr. Charles Knight came into the composing-room and requested me to allow him to go on with what I was doing. I at once did so, and was both surprised and pleased to see the ability he displayed in handling the matter for making up." Mr. Macfarlane is still living, aged eighty-nine, and was in 1884 elected to the Caxton Pension.

Editor, as well as co-equal proprietor, he could not exercise such control, even if he wished it,—which, however, I sincerely believe he does not; since with him, as with myself, the success of the *Athenæum* is the first object at heart; and his own stake in it is sufficiently large to prevent sinister interests from being suffered to affect this; which any interference with its independence would assuredly do.....It would be an insult to the understandings of that class, at least, to whom the *Athenæum* will principally address itself, to suppose they could believe for a moment that so ignoble a phantom as the fear of any author's or publisher's displeasure would make me shrink from the stern and honest performance of my duty. My own heart answers—NEVER! And till this be seen to be a false answer, I ask only for a fair trial and an honest jury, before whom I shall be always ready to appear, and render up an account of my stewardship."

The subject of the leader in the first number is "Characteristics of the Present State of English Literature." "Great and rapid changes," the article states, "have taken place in our Literature. It is as different now from the state in which it was a century ago, both in the number and nature of its productions, not merely as at any two periods in the

"Characteristics of the Present State of English Literature."

history of the same country, but as the Literature of any two civilized and co-existing nations could possibly be.....Half a century ago.....fewer books were written.....but such as *were* written, contained, frequently, the labour of a life, and at least aimed at reputation, by the only means then likely to obtain it, namely, by applying to their composition all the learning, genius, taste, and careful revision, which could alone ensure their favourable reception among the only reading classes then existing; now, ten times the number of works are produced, but the labour of a few weeks is deemed sufficient for a history of one of the most extraordinary individuals, and one of the most striking periods of modern times.....It has been the fashion to impute this inundation of trifling books to the bad taste of the publishers, as if *they* were the persons that gave an impulse to the public mind.....A publisher is merely a merchant who deals in books.....If the wealthy and educated.....will not.....pay the just price of works that cost an author years of study and research, —if the limited sale of such productions leave, in general, a loss to both author and publisher, —other and cheaper wares must be substituted, and the public be supplied with articles got up in haste to suit the market.” Mention is then made of the small amount expended on books

by people of wealth, and indeed by people of all classes in proportion to income and their other expenditure. "We hope and believe that we can render ourselves useful in assisting, at least, to retard.....this growing evil.....We shall endeavour, therefore, first to lay a foundation of solid and useful knowledge, and on this to erect a superstructure of as much harmony, ornament, and beauty, as our own powers and the encouraging aid of those who approve the design will enable us to construct. If the edifice so reared be worthy of the name we have chosen for it, and, like the Athenæum of antiquity, should become the resort of the most distinguished philosophers, historians, orators, and poets of our day, we shall endeavour so to arrange and illustrate their several compositions, that they may themselves be proud of the records of their fame, and that their admirers may deem them worthy of preservation among the permanent memorials of their times."

The first review, on Dr. Hampden's work on Butler's 'Analogy' ('The Philosophical Evidences of Christianity'), was by Dr. Stebbing. An article on Almanacs is very severe upon the Stationers' Company—"a body of men comprising the most wealthy and individually respectable of the booksellers of London; a body who derive considerable revenues by the sale of these

Almanacs
and the
Stationers'
Company.

detestable impostures ; a body who pay to the Government something like 40,000*l.* per annum as the tax upon these execrable poisons. This is, in truth, the secret of the shameless effrontery—the insult to the English people—which is thus offered by a Company who ought to watch over their intellectual advancement with something like a kindred spirit, instead of thus endeavouring to perpetuate the grossest errors..... *in the only publications which they issue in their corporate capacity!*" Favourable mention is then made of the first issue of the 'British Almanac' of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, and it is anticipated that this will "drive the rubbish of the Stationers' Company out of the field." Next we have "Extracts from Unpublished Works" (Hunt's 'Byron' and Hazlitt's 'Napoleon'). In "Periodical Criticism: Reviewers Reviewed—The *Quarterly*," "its sins" are described as having been "so many and so flagrant, that it would be endless to go far back into its contents for the purpose of pointing them out," and the promise is made to "pursue The Reviewer to his last inch of holding-ground in our next." The other headings are Science, Fine Arts, Drama—in all a number of sixteen pages, two and a half of which were advertisements.

Reviewers
Reviewed:
The
Quarterly.

After the first three or four numbers Dr. Steb-

bing became the working editor. He relates how he was bound to be at the office in the Strand every morning at nine, and to remain on duty till six in the evening. "On my table were shovelled piles of books of every class and character. Among the most frequent of visitors to my room were Sterling and Maurice."

On the 16th of January commenced "Sketches of Contemporary Authors," by Maurice—Mr. Jeffrey and the *Edinburgh Review*: Mr. Jeffrey "has little of genial and joyous wit, absolutely nothing of pure imagination, very little of the power of abstraction, but a good deal of ability for sarcasm and repartee, a graceful and glittering fancy, a singular talent for clear distribution and lively illustration, and a very vivid apprehension of the outward and formal differences of minds so superior to his own, that he has never been able to conceive their earnestness, strength, and majesty.....In his attempts to estimate the rarer and mightier spirits of our age, he seems to have a mind as hard and dead as the nether millstone to the impression of that highest order of genius, which alone offers us a subject of study uniformly piquant and inexhaustible."

Of Southey Maurice remarks: "We regret that his poetry is not of a more condensed and concentrated character; for there is a delicacy and sweetness of feeling, and a splendour of

"Contemporary Authors," by Maurice:

Jeffrey.

Southey.

descriptive diction, which, if less diluted and impoverished by verbiage, so as to outlast the fluctuations of the hour, would give as much delight to all future ages as they have already conferred on the instructed and gentle of our own day."

Cobbett.

Cobbett receives the following tribute :
"There is not a page of his that ever has come under our notice, wherein there does not breathe throughout, amid all his absurdities of violence and inconsistency, the strongest feeling for the welfare of the people. The feeling is in nine cases in ten totally mis-directed ; but then it is a living and vigorous sympathy with the interests and hopes of the mass of mankind. Mr. Cobbett's personal consciousness of all which is concealed from our eyes by grey jackets and clouted shoes, has kept alive his sympathy with the majority of mankind..... It is a merit which belongs to no one we remember but himself and Burns, among all the persons that have raised themselves from the lowest condition of life into eminence."

Wordsworth.

Wordsworth "diffuses his affections over everything around him ; and lets them be restricted by no arbitrary limits, and confined within no sectarian enclosures. He looks round upon the world and upon man with eyes of serene rejoicing ; and traces all the workings of that

spirit of good, of whose influence he is conscious in his own heart.....The language is the most translucent of atmospheres for the thought..... The images are, moreover, the types of none but the truest and most healthy feelings; and the ethics of this most philosophical Christian may all be summed up in the one principle of love to God and to his creatures. Like those angels who are made a flame of fire, he burns with a calm and holy light, and the radiance which shows so strange amid the contrasted glare and blackness of the present, will blend with the dawning of a better time as with its native substance."

The next article was on Moore.

Brougham is thus described: "Though among philosophers he would be held as one who had constantly mistaken the types and shadows of truth for truth itself; yet rank him either among lawyers or statesmen, and he stands forth from the crowd with a loftiness of stature and brightness of glory, which in our day and land have belonged to none beside." Brougham.

Of Shelley Maurice says: "He does this mighty good, that he teaches us to look for our improvement, not to the outward circumstances over which our control must always be limited, and which can return to us no substantial happiness, but to those inward powers which are Shelley.

beyond the reach of change or chance, to the improvement of which there is no bound assigned, and which furnish us from within with ample means for our satisfaction. It is, in truth, a voice that might sing among the morning stars, and swell the shout of the sons of God, rejoicing over new worlds."

Scott and Mackintosh followed, the series closing with Maria Edgeworth.

The
Athenæum
published
twice a week.

In No. 8 it was announced that the paper would be published twice a week—Tuesday and Friday; but after five issues this had to be abandoned, and it was again published weekly on Wednesday.

Books for
review.

On the 7th of March the following warning from the Editor appears: "To Authors and Publishers. — It having been discovered that applications are sometimes made by individuals to Authors and Publishers for Books to be Reviewed in the *Athenæum*, and this practice not being authorized or sanctioned by the Editor, it is particularly requested that all Works intended for Review in these pages be sent directly to the Editor himself at the Office of Publication."

The
Verulam
incor-
porated.

On the 28th of May the *Verulam* was incorporated with the *Athenæum*.

Mr. Buckingham, never at rest, announced on May 21st a new London evening newspaper, to

be called the *Argus*, "on a plan of greater novelty, comprehensiveness, variety, and general convenience than any hitherto attempted." The first number was published on the 30th of June, but after the brief existence of a month the paper was added to the list of dead journals. The publication of the *Argus* exercised a lasting influence upon the fortunes of the *Athenæum*. The attempt to print and publish at the same office threw everything into confusion, and the additional capital required for the daily paper caused Mr. Buckingham to part with the *Athenæum* just as there seemed some chance of its becoming a success.

On July 30th the *London Literary Chronicle* was united to the *Athenæum*, the title of the former being added to that of the latter; and Maurice, who had been part proprietor and editor of the *Chronicle*, became editor of the united journals, some half dozen friends having joined to purchase the property from Mr. Buckingham.

*London
Literary
Chronicle
incor-
porated.*

Maurice
becomes
Editor.

Among the purchasers was Sterling, and Carlyle in his life of Sterling states that "on the commercial side the *Athenæum* still lacked success, nor was it likely to find it under the highly uncommercial management it had now

* 'Life of Frederick Denison Maurice,' edited by his Son, vol. i. p. 79.

got into." The sale of the paper rapidly declined, and Maurice, after a trial of only ten months, depressed and out of health, resigned the editorship at the end of May, 1829. His friend Sterling succeeded him, assisted by John Hamilton Reynolds, Allan Cunningham, W. D. Cooley, Dance, and others. Maurice also rendered help.

'Tim-
buctoo,'
by Alfred
Tennyson.

The following interesting notice of Alfred Tennyson's poem 'Timbuctoo,' which obtained the Chancellor's Medal at Cambridge, appeared on the 22nd of July: "We have never before seen a prize poem which indicated really first-rate poetical genius, and which would have done honour to any man that ever wrote. Such, we do not hesitate to affirm, is the little work before us." Then, after a long extract from the poem, the reviewer remarks: "How many men have lived for a century who could equal this?"

Mr. James
Holmes.

At the beginning of 1830 Mr. James Holmes,*

* Mr. James Holmes commenced business at 4, Took's Court in 1825, where he printed the *Law Journal*, the *Literary Magnet* (monthly), and the *London Weekly Review*. The last-named paper was started by Colonel Richardson, a literary man and friend of Buckingham, and resulted in a loss of between three and four thousand pounds in less than two years. Mr. Colburn, finding the *Athenæum* a failure, suggested a new paper to Mr. Holmes, and the *Court Journal* was started on the 25th of April, 1829, the earlier numbers being printed at

the printer, became a proprietor, Sterling shortly afterwards relinquishing his share, although still acting as editor.

With the New Year the second title, "Literary Chronicle," was discontinued, and "The Weekly Review," which had now been amalgamated, substituted. At the same time the day of publication was changed from Wednesday to Saturday, the last issue for 1829 being on December 30th, and the first for 1830 not until the following Saturday week, January 9th. This number opens with a very severe criticism of Robert Montgomery's 'Satan': "Half the young men at either Oxford or Cambridge, if they were compelled, as a task, to write a poem on the same topics as those treated of in 'Satan,' would produce a more creditable work.....Mr. Montgomery calls up spirits; but, instead of coming from the vasty deep, they rise from the ditch of the 'Dunciad.'"

1830.
The *Weekly*
Review.

Robert
Mont-
gomery's
'Satan.'

On January 16th the prospectus of the new series is given, in which it is announced that several of the best contributors to the *London Weekly Review* have joined the *Athenæum*.

The *Athenæum* has always been a warm supporter of the various provident institutions in connexion with the trades or professions imme-

Took's Court. The price was the same as that of the *Athenæum*, 8d., and free by post 1s.

Printers'
Pension
Society.

diately associated with journalism, and we find thus early a strong appeal in favour of the Printers' Pension Society. The occasion was that of Lord Morpeth taking the chair at the annual dinner: "It was only till within these few years that any fixed plan was adopted for their relief [the decayed printer, his destitute widow and orphan].....We cannot too strongly recommend the Society to all those who have the love of literature and the welfare of their country at heart."

Charles
Wentworth
Dilke
becomes
editor.

And now, after so many changes and uncertainties, during which the journal had been offered to Mr. Alaric Watts for 80*l.*,* and to Dr. Stebbing, with the whole of the back stock, for 100*l.*,† the time had come when the editorship was to pass into the hands of one who was not only to establish the journal as the leader of opinion, but was also to put down with a strong hand the then existing system of trade criticism. It was on the 5th of June Charles Wentworth Dilke became the editor, taking upon himself the entire control. Mr. Dilke was then in his forty-first year, having been born on the 8th of December, 1789. He had been a contributor to the *Westminster Review*, the *Retrospec-*

* *Bookseller*, August 31st, 1864.

† Dr. Stebbing's letter in the *Athenæum*, January 19th, 1878.

tive, and *Colburn's New Monthly*, and also for a time editor of the *London Magazine*. His great critical ability and soundness and fairness of judgment—his thorough, searching, and most painstaking investigation of every subject upon which he wrote, sparing neither time, labour, nor expense to sift and examine everything having even the most remote bearing upon it—are well known, his only anxiety being to discover the truth. Mr. Thoms in *Notes and Queries*, August 13th, 1864, thus makes mention of his friend:—"The distinguishing feature of his character was his singular love of truth, and his sense of its value and importance, even in the minutest points and questions of literary history." And again in *Notes and Queries*, October 28th, 1865: "He had no pet theory to maintain. The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, was the end and object of all his inquiries, and in the search after this he was indefatigable." Such was the man who now took the paper into his hands, with the resolve that the reading public should have the opportunity of obtaining, as far as was in his power, accurate information upon all the subjects treated by the *Athenæum*. He determined to break down once and for ever the system of publishing puffs, whether the publishers sent or did not send their books or

His love of
truth.

advertisements. This great fraud upon the public was to be put an end to, or, failing sufficient support, the journal should be abandoned. There should be no attempt at any compromise with the unclean thing. In justice to those then engaged in the publishing trade it must be remembered that they were merely continuing an old-established system. There had never been a newspaper started upon the principles of free and independent literary criticism. Authors had always been accustomed to laudatory notices, and resented strongly anything like fault-finding, considering, when they handed a work to a publisher, that it was a part of his business to secure for it favourable reviews. The then existing literary journals were all ready to bow the knee, and the *Athenæum* came upon authors and publishers alike as a great innovation. They could not understand that their own interests as well as those of the general public would be served by the establishment of such a paper. Of course there were a few independent publishers who felt that while they might suffer by the just censure of a bad book, they must benefit by a commendatory criticism which the public knew to be honest.

This principle is now so fully recognized that it is difficult to believe what a hard-fought

struggle was required to establish it, and that it was only owing to the thorough independence of all connected with the *Athenæum* that this position was attained. It is pleasant to record that the public press gave most generous and efficient support, and warmly and zealously came forward to serve the cause.

On the 19th of June notice was given to advertisers that all advertisements would, in future, be inserted in the stamped edition as well as in the unstamped without increase of charge beyond the additional duty of 3s. 6d., the advertisement duty being 7s. upon advertisements appearing in both issues. It should also be here noted that the stamped shilling edition to go by post had to pass as a newspaper, and for this reason an account of the corn and money markets was inserted.

Advertisements
inserted in
both issues.

On July 3rd the death of the King is announced, with due regard to the services he rendered to the fine arts:—"As Journalists of Literature and Art, we trust it may be permitted to us to express our sympathy with all lovers of either at the death of the most distinguished Patron of both since the days of Charles the First. It was under George the Fourth that the National Gallery was founded—an institution yet in its infancy, but which will flourish when more agitating

Death of
George IV.

and more conspicuous events shall have been forgotten. He it was who founded the Society of Literature, and whose truly royal munificence supported it.....The Royal Academy shared in his liberality. His countenance and support were never wanting either to Art or Literature. The names of Lawrence, Wilkie, Chantrey, Westmacott, and innumerable others, will testify to the splendid liberality of his patronage.....As a king, therefore, even if it were permitted to us to discuss the question, we should desire to leave his character to the more equal justice of posterity ;—but as a Patron of Literature and Art we cannot hesitate to place him among the first of this or any age.”

1831. The year 1831 opens with an address from
Editor's the editor: “To our old friends we have only
address. to express a hope that we have faithfully redeemed our pledges ; and to new ones we may be allowed to repeat our promises, and to explain under what circumstances this Paper was undertaken. There had long been so general an outcry against the corruptions of Reviews, and the direct influence of the great publishers in guiding the pen of criticism, that many well-informed men were of opinion that the public generally were sufficiently awake to the history and mystery of the system, to give an independent Review a fair chance of popularity. In

this spirit the *Athenæum* was purchased in June last by the present proprietors, and entrusted to the uncontrolled and unbiassed power of the Editor. It was an experiment, but its success has been such as to justify the most sanguine hopes. From the public we have received and are daily receiving increased support—from independent publishers the most willing assistance.....from the Public Press all over the United Kingdom the most kind and generous encouragement..... In moral character we feel that the Paper cannot rise, and are determined that it shall not decline, the very existence of it being pledged to fearless impartiality between friend and foe, and an upright and downright integrity and identity of impression and expression."

On the 22nd of January Mr. Limbird's 'Mirror of Literature' receives the following high commendation:—"We are accustomed at our Saturday's breakfast to cast an eye over this little twopenny periodical; but it is only when we find it gathered together into a volume, that we are fully sensible of its real value. Here are five hundred pages of good print and good paper, with more than forty wood-cuts, and some of great labour, for six shillings. The work is full of interesting and pleasant literature: some of the original papers are written with sound judgment, and the selections are always made

Limbird's
'Mirror of
Literature.'

with taste and discrimination. It is just the humanizing volume that ought to delight the fire-side of every cottage in the kingdom: it is just the work the children would subscribe their own halfpence for—and yet it is among the forbidden fruit; it cannot pass by post without a tax of fourpence on every copy—its sale, therefore, is necessarily limited to the great towns—and we then wonder at the brutal ignorance of our agricultural population.”*

The
Monument:
removal
of “the old
lying
inscription”
charging
the Papists
with causing
the fire.

The number for January 29th records the chipping off of “the old lying inscription” from the Monument on Fish Street Hill. “This is abundantly silly. To mutilate and destroy inscriptions is to falsify history. Its remaining there did not prove that the Catholics set fire

* John Limbird died at his house in the Wandsworth Road on October 30th, 1883, aged eighty-eight. The *Bookseller* of January 5th, 1884, contains a very interesting account of this “father of our periodical literature”:—“Before Charles Knight, before William and Robert Chambers, Limbird published the most reputable and most successful of weekly publications, the *Mirror*, a sheet of sixteen demy octavo pages, with one or at the most two woodcuts, at the price of twopence.” Mr. Limbird was at the time a retail stationer in the Strand, next door to Mr. W. H. Smith, his shopman being Mr. John Timbs. The *Bookseller* states that the *Mirror* could not stand the competition of the *Saturday Magazine* and *Penny Magazine* ten years later, and joined the majority.

to the city, but it proved the bigoted ignorance of the people who believed so; it proved that popular opinions, where they run current with popular prejudice, are very indifferent authority."

On May 21st the first article, by Washington Irving, is an "Authentic Narrative of a plan (now first made public) for capturing Prince William Henry, His Present Majesty, during his Stay at New York in 1782; with the Original Letters of General Washington." The deviser of the plan was Col. Ogden, and the editor of the *Athenæum* in a note says: "Wild as the project may seem, it was sanctioned by the cool deliberate judgment of Washington; and it cannot, therefore, be doubted, that His Royal Highness was, for a time, in a situation of great though unknown danger."

Plan to
capture
Prince
William at
New York.

On the 28th of May, returning to the subject of trade criticism, the editor states that the *Athenæum* was the first paper to set itself in "direct opposition to *trade* criticism and *paid* criticism," and did so at no small sacrifice. Some publishers refused to sell the paper; many whose publications chanced to fall under its early notice refused to send another advertisement, and "withheld them until convinced by experience that, right or wrong in our judgment, no personal feeling in the slightest degree influenced us. This merit, be it

much or little, we have claimed as ours exclusively."

Mr. Dilke.
completes
his first year
as editor.

On the 4th of June Mr. Dilke thus refers to his first year of editing: "The *Athenæum* has now.....completed a year's struggle for the true interests of Literature.....The faithful chronicle of all that is interesting to the Poet and the Philosopher is sought to be preserved in the columns of the *Athenæum*; and, for the integrity of its Reviews, it has, in these oppressive days, obtained almost a chivalrous character.* It is a matter of notoriety, that the principal literary papers are the mere *bellows* to the great publishing *forges*,—and are used but to puff the *works* as they go on. The *Athenæum* asserts, and will maintain, its independence. It is under the influence of no Publisher, and is in no way swayed by the *trade winds*, that carry all other craft along with them.....The Readers of this Journal may be assured, that the great cause of truth and intelligence, which is sought to be advocated in these columns, will, in the days to come, experience but a sincerer and more earnest partizan in the *Athenæum*."

* "In proof of this we have, in our last page, collected together the opinions of the Public Press of the United Kingdom." These extracts were taken from seventy of the most influential papers, including the *Globe*, *Atlas*, *Observer*, *Leeds Mercury*, and *Manchester Times*.

On the 16th of July it was announced that from the first Saturday in August the price of the paper would be reduced from 8*d.* to 4*d.*, also that all the back numbers could be obtained at the same price. The *Athenæum* thus became the pioneer of all the high-class cheap periodicals. Mr. Dilke in his address says: "The friends to the diffusion of Useful and Entertaining Knowledge cannot but feel that the circulation of such a paper has a MORAL INFLUENCE on Society; confined to subjects connected with LITERATURE, SCIENCE, and ART, the chief agents of civilization, it must do good to the extent of its circulation; and to extend its range of usefulness to the utmost, the Proprietors have resolved on this great reduction in price." This announcement brought numberless letters from subscribers, who feared that the circulation of the paper would not be sufficiently large to pay at the small price of 4*d.*, and that the loss would be so great that the proprietors would ultimately have to discontinue the publication. But Mr. Dilke had made up his mind, and on the 23rd of July, in his note to correspondents, while thanking friends for their kindness, he states that, although aware that the proposed change was hazarding a great deal, "it was neither hastily nor unadvisedly determined on. Many months ago council was

Reduction
in price.

held on the subject, and preparations made"; and Mr. Dilke argues: "If the readers of literary papers be so limited.....who were the thirty thousand purchasers of the early volumes of the Family Library, who the fourteen thousand purchasers of the Lives of the Painters, a subject limited in its interest to the highest and most refined class of informed minds?"

Opposed by
Reynolds
and Hood.

This determination on the part of Mr. Dilke caused anxiety to some of the other proprietors. John Hamilton Reynolds and Hood were much against the change, and strongly urged that at any rate the price should not be reduced below 6*d.* Mr. Dilke, however, remained firm, and the result far exceeded his greatest anticipations. On the first day of the change he writes to his wife: "You remember that at the outset we professed we should be well pleased if at starting we *doubled* our sale. We have already trebled it." And again on the day following: "Our sale up to the present time has been six times our former sale."* The alarm of Hood and Reynolds could be very well understood, for it was most certainly a case of kill or cure. Failure would have been fatal, as it would have been quite impossible to have returned to the former price, or to compromise the matter by making

* Biographical sketch by his grandson, Sir Charles Wentworth Dilke, Bart., M.P., 'Papers of a Critic.'

the price sixpence. The increase of the sale of the *Athenæum* considerably affected that of the *Literary Gazette*, and Jerdan states: "There was no longer any laughing at the fainting competition, and my witty correspondents' squibs on the subject became less amusing."*

Mr. Dilke, having now placed the editorial department on a satisfactory basis, turned his attention to the business management, and on the 27th of August inserted an advertisement for a junior clerk.† This advertisement was replied to by John Francis, and after an interview with Mr. Dilke and Mr. Holmes, and the depositing of two substantial sureties, he obtained the appointment. These sureties were shortly

John Francis
obtains
appointment
as clerk.

* One wrote :—

" Mr. Dilke, Mr. Dilke,
Tho' the novice you bilke,
Be not hasty to sing the Te Deum.
No reader will quit
A print that has wit
For your prosy and dull *Athenæum*."

The Autobiography of William Jerdan,
vol. iv. p. 360.

† "To Junior Clerks of News Publishers.—Wanted, an active and intelligent young man to assist in the Business of the Office of this Paper. Particulars as to previous situation, rate of salary received, age, and qualifications, to be sent to the Printer, post paid. Security will be required, and testimonials as to character."

afterwards returned to him by Mr. Dilke, with a few kind and much valued words. As an instance of Francis's generosity, it may be mentioned that while on his way with his letter to Mr. Dilke he met a friend, and on the friend informing him that he had applied for the situation, Francis kept his own letter back until he heard that the application had not been successful. This showed considerable self-denial, as he had been a reader of the journal from its commencement, and had watched with great interest the progress it was making, feeling confident that with the advance of education there would be for it a future of considerable usefulness and prosperity. The honesty and independence of its tone thoroughly commended the paper to him, and he had given much consideration to the social reforms advocated by the *Athenæum*, and was prepared to bear his part in the great struggle which all well-wishers of the poor and oppressed saw must take place before even partial success could be obtained. He was in his twenty-first year, and had just completed his term at Marlborough's Newspaper Office, so that he was thoroughly conversant with newspaper management. He was full of intelligence and enthusiasm, and, while almost entirely self-educated, had read with great care, and was well informed on all the topics

of the day. Although so young his judgment was well matured, and the opinions he then held on all leading questions remained unchanged to the close of his life. He was a Liberal in politics, and rather relished being styled a Radical. In religion he was a strong Nonconformist, being a member of the Baptist denomination. At the same time there was nothing narrow about him; he was a man of large views, and rejoiced to work with all whose sincere desire was for the common good.

His political
and religious
views.

The life at Marlborough's, like that of all news-vendors, had been a hard one. He lived in the house at Ave Maria Lane, and was at work both early and late. Even on Sunday there was not complete rest, as he had to deliver papers from five in the morning until about nine, when he would hurry off to his Sunday School, spending the rest of the day either in teaching or in attending the services of his chapel.

Life at
Marl-
borough's.

Mr. Marlborough thoroughly appreciated him, and would have retained him in the service of his firm; but Francis had determined to get out of the news trade as soon as possible, and has often said that he should never advise any one to enter into a business requiring such constant anxiety and incessant labour.*

Dislike
of the news
trade.

* In his notes on his life it will be seen that he never allowed anything to prevent his purchasing or delivering

The business
management
of the
Athenæum
placed in
his hands.

Francis entered the *Athenæum* office in September, 1831, and on the 4th of October the entire business management was placed in his hands. The evidence of his presence was soon manifest out of doors, for Jerdan in referring to the reduction in price says, "That sagacious measure was followed up by the most diligent adoption of all business resources so essential to successful publishing."

The first
gratis
Supplement.

On the 15th of October was issued the first gratis supplement, containing eight pages of reading matter, making with the number twenty-four pages for fourpence; but, alas for the proprietors! there were only five columns of advertisements. Among them it is interesting to find one announcing the first catalogue of that eminent bookseller Mr. Bohn.

the newspapers, and would make his way through any crowd rather than disappoint his employer. He often related to his friends what a narrow escape he had on the occasion of the execution of the banker Fauntleroy, on the 30th of November, 1824. He was obliged to pass through the Old Bailey just after the execution, and the crowd was so dense and disorderly, that he was only saved by timely help from being crushed to death.

CHAPTER III.

THE ATHENÆUM, 1832—1846.

ON the 7th of January, 1832,* Mr. Dilke states :—" Our success has exceeded even our own sanguine hopes. It has been more rapid and triumphant than was perhaps ever known. From a comparatively low state of existence the *Athenæum* has risen to a sale exceeding that of *any* literary paper. We say not this boastingly, but encouragingly, to those active and zealous friends who have, in increasing numbers, taken an interest in our success, and this, too, not on personal or private grounds—but the better one, of principle. That the establishment of this paper has done good we are certain. The mystery of trade criticism and broad-sheet paragraphs has been utterly exposed.....But the exposure, though a serviceable duty to the public, has been most painful to ourselves, and we rejoice that the necessity gets less every hour. We need not assure our

1832.
Mr. Dilke's
New Year's
address.

* This year Mr. Dilke and Mr. Holmes became sole proprietors, Mr. Dilke owning three-fourths, and Mr. Holmes one-fourth. (Biographical sketch by Mr. Dilke's grandson, Sir Charles Dilke.)

readers that we shall resolutely pursue the same course until publishers are content to allow others to judge of the merits of their works. Unshrinking and uncompromising when the battle was to be fought at all disadvantages, we are not likely to desert our standard now that the battle is won, and we have only to share the honours and glories of the triumph."

Poem by
Carlyle.

The following short poem by Carlyle also appeared in the issue of January 7th:—

FAUST'S CURSE.

[From Goethe.]

—"Our armies swore terribly in Flanders," said the Corporal,
"but it was nothing to this."

"IF, through th' abyss of terror stealing,
Those touching sounds* my purpose† stay'd—
Some lingering touch of childish feeling,
With voice of merrier times betray'd,—
I curse the more whate'er environs
The cheated soul with juggling shows,
Those heart's allurements, fancy's syrens,
That bind us to this den of woes.
A curse on all, one seed that scatters
Of hope from death our name to save;
On all as earthly Good that flatters,
As Wife or Child, as Plough or Slave;
A curse on juice of Grapes deceiving,
On Love's wild thrill of raptures first;
A curse on Hoping, on Believing,
And Patience more than all be curs'd!"—

* Of the Christmas Hymns from the neighbouring church.
† Of Suicide."

Francis, naturally enough, announced it in the bill of contents for the week. The bill was, as usual, placed outside the office, without a thought that Carlyle would take offence. That he did take offence is shown by his diary :—"Jan. 13th, 1832. Last Friday saw my name in large letters at the *Athenæum* office in Catherine Street; hurried on with downcast eyes as if I had seen myself in the pillory.....Why yield even half a hair's breadth to puffing? Abhor it, utterly divorce it, and kick it to the Devil."*

On the 24th of March an advertisement appears of the first number of *Tait's Edinburgh Magazine*; and on the 31st, to be published on that day by Charles Knight, is announced the first number of the *Penny Magazine*, "under the superintendence of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge." Shopkeepers and hawkers are informed that they may be supplied wholesale by Groombridge, Panyer Alley, Paternoster Row.

*Tait's
Edinburgh
Magazine.*

*Penny
Magazine.*

On the 5th of May the office of the journal was removed from No. 7, to No. 2, Catherine Street,† a small, inconvenient house, a little way

Removal to
2, Catherine
Street.

* 'Carlyle: History of the First Forty Years of his Life,' by James Anthony Froude, M.A., vol. ii. p. 230.

† This house was rented from the notorious Charles Molloy Westmacott, "the great Captain of the *Age*," that publication, so celebrated for "ink making" and "black

up on the left from the Strand, and within a few doors of the corner house in Exeter Street, where Johnson took lodgings when he and his pupil, David Garrick, paid their first visit to London in 1737. The Catherine Street entrance to the Gaiety Restaurant now occupies its site. The restaurant was preceded by the New Exeter Change (an attempt at a second Lowther Arcade), which ran through to Wellington Street.

On the 29th of September, on the front page, a short notice with a black border announces the death of Sir Walter Scott, and the next number, for October 6th, is devoted exclusively to an account of his life and works, written by Allan Cunningham.

Death of
Sir Walter
Scott.

Contributors
to the
Athenæum.

During this year the contributors to the *Athenæum* included Thomas Carlyle, the Ettrick Shepherd, Hood, Hervey, William and Mary Howitt, Leigh Hunt, Mrs. Fletcher (born Jewsbury), Charles Lamb, Leitch Ritchie, William Roscoe, and Thomas Roscoe.

mail," being published at No. 1. A full and interesting sketch of this "worthy" is to be found in the *Fraser* "Gallery of Illustrious Literary Characters." The portrait by Maclise shows the knowing horsewhip in the hat. "The lash, that is visible outside, curvets with so much ease, that one cannot be deceived as to the nature of the 'tool'; it is loaded, and no mistake."

Mr. Dilke, desirous that his readers should have an opportunity of becoming thoroughly acquainted with the past history of English and foreign literature, announces on September 21st, 1833, that arrangements have been made for a series of articles, to commence in the following year, on foreign literature; and that "in the meantime, that our own literature may have due honour and precedence, the first of a series on the Literature of England during the Nineteenth Century; or better, perhaps, A Biographical and Critical History of the Literature of the last Fifty Years, by Mr. Allan Cunningham, will forthwith appear." In order "that these Papers may in no way trench on the space heretofore appropriated to other purposes.....an extra half sheet will always be given." The cost of the two series was estimated at from two to three thousand pounds. The first article on English literature appeared on the 26th of October; the fifth, concluding this series, on the 28th of December. These articles appeared simultaneously in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*.

1833.

History of
English and
Foreign
Literature.

Allan
Cunningham
on English
literature.

The first number for the New Year opens with "The Roxburghe Revels MS." This MS. had been included in the sale of Mr. Haslewood's library, and Mr. Dilke had sent a bid of 39/. Being outbidden, he afterwards gave the purchaser a larger sum in order to secure the work

1834.
"The Rox-
burghe
Revels MS."

for the *Athenæum*. The MS., compiled by Mr. Haslewood, was described in the catalogue as "The Roxburghe Revels; or, an Account of the Annual Display, Culinary and Festivous, interspersed incidentally with Matters of Moment or Merriment. Also Brief Notices of the Press Proceedings, by a few Lions of Literature, combined as the Roxburghe Club, founded 17th June, 1812." In this curious whimsical record of the proceedings of the Roxburghe Club is inserted the very interesting autograph letter of Sir Walter Scott, dated February 25th, 1823, declaring his willingness to take his seat at the Club "as representative of the author of 'Waverley' till the author is discovered." The publication of this manuscript attracted great attention, and was continued through four numbers; and it is shown that while the members of the Club had spent two thousand pounds upon their own stomachs, they had only found the paltry sum of two guineas to vote for a bust of Caxton. The notice concludes:—"We have now finished 'The Roxburghe Revels,' and finished the Roxburghe Club. Mr. Haslewood has finished himself."

On May 20th, 1848, there is a note of a curious collection of autograph letters of members of the Roxburghe Club then on sale at Sotheby's, including one from Mr. Thomas

Thorpe, the bookseller in Piccadilly, to the late Dr. Dibdin, which runs as follows: "Rev. Sir,—I purchased the R. R. [Roxburghe Revels] for 40*l.* against the editor of the *Athenæum*, who if he had got it would have shewen the Club up finely larded." This note Dr. Dibdin enclosed in a letter to Sir G. H. Freeling. "I enclose," he says, "a unique note from Thorpe touching the sale of the Roxburghe Revels." The editor remarks: "Our readers will agree with us in thinking that the Club was 'shewen up' 'finely larded' with sauce of its own preparing; and it is only proper to add that the resolute purchaser of Piccadilly subsequently sold the volume for 50*l.* to the editor of this paper at the risk of its being so. It would have been a pity to disappoint the prophecy."

On April 19th, 1834, the promised articles on the "Literature of the Nineteenth Century" were commenced, the first series being that of Spain, by Don A. Galiano.

Literature
of the
Nineteenth
Century:
Spain.

The number for the 31st of May contains a page illustration of the National Gallery, then being built, from drawings made by permission of Mr. Wilkins from the model.

The
National
Gallery.

On the 11th of October commences a series of unpublished letters of Lord Nelson, extending over five numbers.

Unpublished
letters of
Lord Nelson.

With the first number for 1835 the history of

1835.
Literature
of the
Nineteenth
Century:
America and
Germany;
United
States;
Othoman
Empire.

the "Literature of the Nineteenth Century" is continued, America taking four articles; then Germany, by Dr. Wolff, seven articles; then "Sketches of the Literature of the United States," by the Rev. Timothy Flint, eleven articles; finally, the Othoman Empire, by Von Hammer, three articles.

1836.

Railways.

On the 23rd of January, 1836, owing to the great amount of public attention then being directed to railways, an outline map of England is given, drawn by James Arrowsmith, with the railways in operation, in progress, and in contemplation. In the article preceding the map the writer says, "The general convenience and usefulness of iron roads as the means of communication, may be considered as pretty well ascertained," and then continues with this kindly word of warning, foreshadowing the terrible 25th of October, 1845: "How far the cost of their formation will, in every instance, be repaid to the proprietors, is another question, and one that, we imagine, has not been sufficiently examined by the projectors of many of the schemes now brought forward. With this question, however, we have little to do; our business is with the public consequences of those undertakings—the shareholders must look to themselves; and as we are not called upon to decide how many of the schemes appealing for

support will enrich, and how many will impoverish their supporters, our present purpose is chiefly to enumerate the principal railways."

On the 26th of March, on the back page, is advertised "The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club, edited by 'Boz,' to be published by Chapman & Hall, 186, Strand."

'Pickwick
Papers'
announced.

In the number of May 21st a full description is given of the new Houses of Parliament, with a ground plan and a perspective view engraved on steel, after drawings made under the direction of Mr. Barry. These engravings attracted great attention, as they were supplied exclusively to the *Athenæum*. The King was so much interested that he sent to the office on the Sunday for a copy of the paper.

The new
Houses of
Parliament.

The entire number of the 26th of August is devoted to the report of the meeting of the British Association at Bristol.

British
Association
at Bristol.

On December 31st in the "Weekly Gossip" the founding of the Booksellers' Provident Institution is announced. At a preliminary meeting, held at the Albion Tavern on the 16th, Mr. Orme in the chair, the following resolution was passed: "That it is the opinion of this meeting that it will be to the advantage of the trade, to establish an Institution for the mutual assistance and support of decayed Booksellers, and Booksellers' Assistants, being

Booksellers'
Provident
Institution
founded.

members, and of Widows, to be called the Booksellers' Provident Institution." Resolutions were also passed to call a general meeting, "at which the Lord Mayor should be requested to preside. This Institution has our best wishes, it ought, indeed, to be warmly taken up and encouraged by all the patrons (and yet more the workers) of literature."

1837.
Literature
of the
Nineteenth
Century.

On the 4th of February, 1837, the history of the "Literature of the Nineteenth Century" is continued by the first of two papers on Arabic and Persian literature, by Meerza Ibrahim. These articles were followed by seven by Jules Janin on the literature of France.

Carlyle's
lectures on
German
literature.

On the 24th of March a kindly word is said of the lectures on German literature about to be given by Carlyle in May, at Willis's Rooms. "This is an announcement of promise, few who have come before the public in a similar capacity having been more thoroughly imbued with the spirit of their subject than this gentleman."

Death of
William IV.

On the 24th of June a column on the front page, with a mourning border, thus announces the death of William IV. :—

"Long before our Paper is published, the death of His Majesty will have been made known in the remotest corner of the kingdom. We therefore advert to the melancholy subject, only that we may not seem wanting in respect for one equally beloved as a Sovereign and as

a Man. Whatever opinions may be entertained of the political tendencies of his government, it must be admitted by all, that no monarch ever lived who was more anxious for the well-being of the people ; who, to use the language of his Successor, more earnestly desired ‘to promote the amelioration of the laws and institutions of his country.’”

During July, Elizabeth Barrett Browning contributed two poems on the Princess Victoria’s accession to the throne, the first being entitled ‘The Young Queen,’ and the second on the 8th of July the following :—

‘Victoria’s
Tears,’ by
Elizabeth
Barrett
Browning.

VICTORIA’S TEARS.

“O maiden, heir of kings,
A king has left his place ;
The majesty of death has swept
All other from his face.
And thou, upon thy mother’s breast,
No longer lean adown—
But take the glory for the rest,
And rule the land that loves thee best.”
The maiden wept ;
She wept, to wear a crown.

They decked her courtly halls—
They reined her hundred steeds—
They shouted at her palace gate,
“A noble Queen succeeds !”
Her name has stirred the mountains’ sleep,
Her praise has filled the town :
And mourners, God had stricken deep,
Looked hearkening up, and did not weep !
Alone she wept,
Who wept, to wear a crown !

She saw no purples shine,
 For tears had dimmed her eyes :
 She only knew her childhood's flowers
 Were happier pageantries !
 And while the heralds played their parts
 For million shouts to drown—
 " God save the Queen," from hill to mart—
 She heard through all, her beating heart,
 And turned and wept !
 She wept, to wear a crown.

God save thee, weeping Queen,
 Thou shalt be well beloved !
 The tyrant's sceptre cannot move,
 As those pure tears have moved !
 The nature, in thine eyes we see,
 Which tyrants cannot own—
 The love that guardeth liberties.
 Strange blessing on the nation lies,
 Whose sovereign wept,
 Yea, wept, to wear its crown.

God bless thee, weeping Queen,
 With blessing more divine ;
 And fill with better love than earth's
 That tender heart of thine ;
 That when the thrones of earth shall be
 As low as graves, brought down,
 A piercèd hand may give to thee,
 The crown which angels shout to see.
 Thou wilt not *weep*,
 To wear that heavenly crown.

On the 27th of November the business of the *Athenæum* office was removed to Wellington Street.

1838. On February 24th, 1838, Jules Janin's article closing the history of French literature appeared,

and was followed by Poland, by Stanislas Kozmian.

During the earlier years of the *Athenæum* subjects were often treated in its pages which, apart from the question of want of space, would now, perhaps, be considered outside its province, and the discussion of which in a paper devoted to literature, science, and the fine arts the free and influential press we now enjoy has rendered unnecessary; but at a time when the circulation of the daily press was so restricted, the advocacy by the *Athenæum* of certain home questions was most beneficial. It was among the first to take up the subject of the taxes upon literature and the press, and persistently advocated their removal until entire freedom was secured. Further particulars on this subject and the action taken by John Francis will be found in the chapters devoted to a sketch of that struggle. The other questions in which the *Athenæum* specially took part were those of postal reform, the housing of the London poor, the better condition of our prisons, the reform of our criminal laws with a view to restoring the criminal to society, ragged schools, mechanics' institutions, public parks, and the reforms necessary for the better condition of the Irish people.

The prosperity of the Post Office sprang from the adoption of the plan suggested by Mr. John

The
Athenæum
and taxes
upon
literature.

The
Post Office.

John
Palmer,

Palmer, of Bath, of sending the letters by the coaches instead of transmitting them by post-boys on horseback. When Mr. Palmer first proposed his scheme great was the merriment amongst the Post Office officials, as they regarded the plan as simply impossible. Mr. Pitt, however, took the project under his care, and the first mail coach left London for Bristol on the 2nd of August, 1784. In 1837 the Post Office had still greater success thrust upon it by Mr. Rowland Hill, who early in the year published his pamphlet on the penny postage. The revenue for 1839, the last year of the old rate, was 2,522,495*l.*, while the number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom amounted to 82,563,000, over six millions of these being franked. In the year 1884–85 the amount received for postage alone was 7,629,820*l.*; the entire revenue, including that from money orders, savings banks, and telegraphs, was 10,032,483*l.* The number of letters delivered was 1,360,341,400, being an average of thirty-eight to each person. Including postcards, book packets, circulars, newspapers, and parcels, the grand total reached 2,007,677,573. Among the letters was one written on the back of a penny stamp, which was committed to the post and duly delivered at Liverpool; the letter contained twenty-six words. The success achieved led to a repeti-

Rowland
Hill.

tion of the experiment, but on a third attempt being made with a halfpenny stamp the diminutive document became liable to a charge of one penny as an insufficiently prepaid letter, a penalty which was duly enforced.

On the 6th of May, 1837, the *Athenæum* gave a short notice of Rowland Hill's pamphlet 'Post Office Reform,' and expressed its conviction that his statements and reasoning were worthy of the most serious consideration, though hesitating to acquiesce entirely in his conclusions. On the 21st and 28th of April, 1838, it returns to the question in two leading articles upon the 'Minutes of Evidence taken before the Select Committee on Postage,' this Committee having been appointed for the purpose of examining the mode recommended by Rowland Hill for charging and collecting postage. The writer of the articles says:—"The facts made known by this Report excite in us some astonishment.....1,000 letters can be conveyed to Edinburgh or Dundee for one shilling, and within forty-eight hours; and the postage charge for the delivery of one letter is 1s. 1½d.!" Mr. Hill proposed the issue of penny stamped covers for letters: "Having seen that the Chairman of Stamps and Taxes mentions 'a peculiar paper with lines of thread or silk stretched through its substance, which is the best preventive of forgery

Rowland
Hill's
pamphlet.

Evidence
before
the Select
Committee
on Postage.

Plan to prevent forgery of stamped covers.

The *Athenæum* printed on the threaded paper.

House of Commons favourable to Rowland Hill's scheme.

1839.

he has seen,' and therefore likely to protect these stamped covers from being forged, we have requested Mr. Dickinson, the inventor, to manufacture, for our next number, so much of this threaded paper as shall be sufficient for our whole impression, which will be printed upon it, so as to make our subscribers acquainted with the nature of the proposed method." The issue of April 28th had these blue threads inserted in the substance of the paper, and the article states: "We.....shall be surprised if so simple a means of protecting the revenue and preventing crime is not adopted." The article closes with the hope that the result of the labours of the Committee will "aid the science of taxation, by additional proof that an exorbitant impost is less productive to the revenue than such a moderate tax as neither checks consumption nor occasions smuggling."

On August 18th it is announced that the Committee of the House of Commons had concluded their labours, and their report was substantially a recommendation of Mr. Hill's plan, which was, as is well known, adopted on the 10th of October, 1840.

With the year 1839 the advertisements, which had hitherto been all placed at the back of the paper, were separated, a portion being placed in the front, those of a temporary character,

such as of lectures and classes, taking precedence. The publishers were still slow to advertise, and the first number for 1839 has but ten columns of advertisements.

During 1839 much space is given to the discoveries of M. Daguerre and Mr. Fox Talbot. The former gave the name of daguerreotype to his process, while Mr. Talbot called his photogenic drawing. The difference between the processes was that M. Daguerre employed metal plates, while Mr. Talbot used prepared paper. M. Arago announced M. Daguerre's discovery before the Académie des Sciences at Paris on the 7th of January, and the *Athenæum* correspondent obtained from M. Daguerre the details, as far as was possible, of his process. M. Daguerre offered his discovery to the French Government, fixing the value at 300,000 francs. The Chamber of Deputies granted a pension of 6,000 francs to M. Daguerre, and one of 4,000 to M. Isidore Niépce, the surviving son of Joseph Nicéphore Niépce,* with a reversion of half the respective amounts to Madame Daguerre and Madame Niépce, on the condition that the discovery was made public. M. Arago gave a full description of the entire

Photography discovered :
M. Daguerre
and Mr. Fox
Talbot.

Pensions to
M. Daguerre
and
M. Niépce.

* Joseph Nicéphore Niépce, the inventor of the *Pyréolophore*, had joined Daguerre in his experiments. They worked together until the death of Niépce in 1833.

process at the meeting of the Académie des Sciences on the 19th of August. The excitement was so great that the doors of the Institute were besieged three hours before the time of the sitting. M. Daguerre's long researches to produce the effects of light and shade in his dioramas had ended in his present invention. In noting the discovery the *Athenæum* points out that the fact that an image or picture might be produced by the action of light on nitrate of silver was shown more than a quarter of a century earlier by Sir H. Davy, but the difficulty, it appears, "was to fix the image or picture."

Sir
H. Davy.

Difficulty of
preserving
M. Daguerre's
pictures.

One great obstacle to M. Daguerre's process was the difficulty of preserving the pictures, they being of so delicate a nature and so easily injured that the slightest touch effaced them. The *Athenæum* of September 14th announces that M. Dumas had discovered "that a liquid composed of one part of *dextrine* and five parts of water forms a varnish of the desired nature."

On October 12th an article appears on 'Attempts at engraving the Daguerreotype Pictures,' and, after referring to the many endeavours that had been made to overcome the difficulties of the process, states that M. Donné had at length announced that he had succeeded in engraving the photogenic images and producing impressions from them ; and some

of the plates so engraved had been exhibited to the Royal Academy of Paris.

On May 4th announcement is made of Prof. Jacobi's invention for converting any line, however fine, engraved on copper, into a relief, by a galvanic process. "The Emperor of Russia has placed at the Professor's disposal funds to enable him to perfect his discovery." Prof. Jacobi, in a letter to Mr. Faraday which appeared in the *Philosophical Magazine*, says: "By this voltaic process, the most delicate and even microscopic lines are reproduced; and the copies are so identical with the original, that the most rigorous examination cannot find the least difference..... With respect to the technical importance of these voltaic copies, I would observe that we may use the engraved cathode, not only of metals more negative than copper, but also of positive metals and their alloys, (excepting brass,) notwithstanding that these metals, &c., decompose the salts of copper with too much energy when alone. Thus one may make, for example, stereotypes in copper which may be multiplied as much as we please." This notice brought a letter from Mr. Thomas Spencer, of Liverpool, from which it appeared that that gentleman had been for some time independently engaged on the same subject, and "has not only succeeded in doing all that M. Jacobi has done, but has

Electrotype:
Prof. Jacobi's
invention.

Mr. Thomas
Spencer.

successfully overcome those difficulties which arrested the progress of the latter. It is unnecessary here to enter on the question of priority between these gentlemen. To Mr. Spencer much credit is certainly due for having investigated, and successfully carried out, an application of voltaic electricity, the value of which can hardly be questioned. The objects which Mr. Spencer says he proposed to effect, were the following :—‘To engrave in relief upon a plate of copper—to deposit a voltaic copper-plate, having the lines in relief—to obtain a facsimile of a medal, reverse or obverse, or of a bronze cast—to obtain a voltaic impression from plaster or clay—and to multiply the number of already engraved copperplates.’ The results which he has obtained are very beautiful ; and some copies of medals which he has forwarded to us are remarkably sharp and distinct, particularly the letters, which have all the appearance of having been struck by a die.”

Stationers’
Benevolent
Society
founded.

On the 28th of September the founding of a Stationers’ Benevolent Society is announced, similar to the Booksellers’ Provident Institution, with a permanent fund of 10,000*l*.

1840.
Henry
Bohn’s
Second
Catalogue.

On the 5th of December, 1840, surprise is expressed at the size of Mr. Henry G. Bohn’s Catalogue : “What are we to do with or say of Mr. Henry G. Bohn’s Catalogue—a bookseller’s cata-

logue! and yet, laugh as the reader may, it is not merely the novelty of the season, but a novelty in literature. We speak by rule, when we say it is nearly five inches thick! 'A monster' volume! It contains 2,100 pages and announcements of something under 25,000 works, and the cost of preparing and publishing it is said to have exceeded 2,000*l*! We remember, many years since, the Messrs. Longmans published a catalogue, which yet figures on our library shelves, and is, we believe, worth three times the price it cost, and a wondrous catalogue it then appeared to us; but compared with the catalogue of Mr. Henry Bohn it is a mere undersized starveling. Whether the latter has been compiled and arranged with equal care, we cannot say—two thousand one hundred octavo pages are not to be read and digested in an autumn evening."

Longmans'
Catalogue.

What would the writer say to the catalogue recently issued by Mr. Quaritch, which exceeds six inches, and to Mr. Whitaker's Reference Catalogue, eight inches in thickness?

Quaritch's
Catalogue.

Whitaker's
Reference
Catalogue.

On the 1st of May, 1841, a sketch is given of the history of the Literary Fund Society. "It appears, from letters and papers yet preserved, that so early as 1773, the Rev. David Williams proposed the formation of the Literary Fund to a small select club of literary men,

1841.
History of
the Literary
Fund
Society.

who met at the Prince of Wales Tavern in Conduit Street. The Chairman on this occasion was the celebrated Benjamin Franklin, who, in discussing the merits of Mr. Williams's proposal, expressed great regret in declaring his opinion, that a Fund of any considerable amount for a purpose he acknowledged to be truly noble, could not be obtained, because the impression to be made by an appeal to the public must be very feeble.....Subsequently Mr. Williams applied to Pitt, Fox, Burke, and others, in the hope of obtaining their aid, but he observes, in letters still extant, 'It was treated as a fine speculation, impossible to be realized.' The subject now slumbered for awhile." On the 18th of May, 1790, Mr. Williams convened a public meeting, "and on that day the Literary Fund was established....." The Permanent Fund was commenced in 1797, and in the following year the Treasurers were enabled to make their first purchase of stock. By extreme good management, the Society during the first ten years of its existence, even with its limited resources, bestowed 1,179*l.* in the relief of applicants, and purchased stock to the amount of 1,000*l.*' In 1803 the largest subscription ever contributed to the Fund 474*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, was collected at Hyderabad by Colonel Kirkpatrick, and transmitted to the

The found-
ing of the
Literary
Fund.

Collection at
Hyderabad.

Society. In 1805 the Prince of Wales became its patron and ever after a liberal benefactor. An event of great interest in the history of the Society, is the legacy of Thomas Newton, the last representative of the great philosopher. At the age of eighty-six, he exclaimed with enthusiasm, on reading the Reports of the Society, 'This is the Institution for the Representative of Newton,' and he bequeathed to it his small estate. In 1818 the Society received a charter of incorporation; but Mr. Williams did not live to see the accomplishment of this object of his wishes, though long enough to see his benevolent exertions crowned with success. Many of our readers will be surprised to hear that, in its brief and noiseless career, the Literary Fund has already distributed more than 26,000*l*." The *Athenæum* of May 14th, 1842, contains a long report of the anniversary meeting held on the 11th of May, when Prince Albert took the chair. The subscriptions, which included 100 guineas from the Queen and 100*l*. from the Prince, amounted to 1,109*l*. 15*s*.

The following is the origin of the Franklin Pension in connexion with the Printers' Corporation. On the 24th of March, 1838, a writer in the *Athenæum*, in noticing Mr. Thatcher's lecture on self-education at the London Mechanics' Institution, states that after the

Legacy of
Thomas
Newton.

The Society
incorporated
1818.

1842.
Anniversary
meeting,
Prince
Albert in the
chair.

The Printers'
Franklin
Pension.

lecture he learned from Mr. Thatcher that his "researches after traces of Franklin's doings in London have brought to light a relic, which few, perhaps, of our readers have either heard of or seen. It will be remembered, that when the young Bostonian came to London to pursue his printing business, he worked first with a person named Palmer in Bartholomew Close. Hence he went to Watts's, 'near Lincoln's Inn Fields'; the biographer says in Wild Street,—in fact where the spot may still be pointed out; his boarding-house, at that period, being in Duke Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, opposite to which is now the Catholic Chapel. The relic we refer to is the identical press which Franklin worked at when with Mr. Watts. It is now the property of a member of the craft, and may be seen (we presume) at Mr. Harrild's, 10 and 11, Great Distaff Lane, Friday Street, who has also a complete, accurate, and well-authenticated pedigree of this precious machine. The tradition is still preserved among the trade, that when Franklin was here again in 1768, as the agent of Massachusetts, he visited his old master, who still continued the business at the same place, sought out the press, which was still doing duty too, called the workmen together, and gave them, over a good noggin of porter, an account of

The Frank-
lin press.

Franklin's
visit to
London
in 1768.

the article, and a few words of comment in 'poor Richard's' usual manner, which made a great impression. It is no longer used ; but, though clumsy and rough, does not differ so much from common presses as might be supposed, — it being now 110 years since the philosopher pulled at it himself. From Watts it went to Cox & Son, Great Queen Street. Mr. Cox was offered seventy guineas for it as a curiosity. Mr. Harrild, the present owner, values it highly."

The *Athenæum* of January 29th, 1842, records that the above notice led many persons to visit Messrs. Harrild's warehouse, and among others Mr. J. B. Murray, of New York, who was anxious that the press should be preserved in the museum of the Philadelphia Philosophical Society. Messrs. Harrild gave a willing consent "on condition that a donation should be made to the Printers' Pension Society. Subsequently the Press was presented unconditionally to Mr. Murray, and by him to the Philosophical Society." But anxious to carry into effect the benevolent intentions of Messrs. Harrild, Mr. Murray exhibited the press in Liverpool, and the Rev. Hugh M'Neile delivered a lecture, the sum of 150*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* being thus raised, and invested in the Funds in aid of an endowment for one disabled printer, to be called "The Franklin Pensioner."

1842.

The press
presented to
the Philadel-
phia Philo-
sophical
Society.

Longevity:
'Les Cen-
ténaires.'

The number for October 1st, 1842, contains the opening of the controversy on the question of longevity, upon which Mr. Dilke, Mr. Thoms, and Sir George Cornwall Lewis were entirely agreed. The work reviewed was a French one, 'Les Centénaires,' which contained "some astounding statements" respecting the age attained by individuals in the different countries of Europe. "Thus we are told, 'There have died in England, in the course of the last century, 49 persons who have reached from 130 to 180 years of age! Of those seven reached 134 years, four 138, two 146, four 155, one 159, one 160, one 168, one 169, and one 175.' Now, we believe it to be beyond the power of the writer to *prove* any *one* of these assertions, to prove that any one man or woman, in England, ever attained the lowest of these ages, or 130 years. We do not, of course, mean, when we speak of proof, the gossiping nonsense which passes current on such occasions, but such evidence as would be received as conclusive in a court of law; and surely in a country where every parish has its register, the age of a party is a fact very easy of proof. Some years since (see Nos. 200-3) we were drawn into a controversy respecting the age of a man of the name of Patrick Gibson, of whom a portrait and a memoir were published, setting forth that he was in his 111th

year. We proved to demonstration that every assertion from which his great age was to be inferred was false ; yet, since then, his portrait, with the falsehood deliberately written on the frame, has been placed in the Hall at Greenwich Hospital. Our incredulity on the subject of these Old Gibsons, Old Parrs, and Old Jenkins being known, we have on more than one occasion been sent by friends in search of cases, that *admitted*, they said, of *no doubt* ; but, on inquiry, it turned out that instead of ‘no doubt,’ we should read ‘*no proof*.’ The parties indeed recollected, or rather professed to recollect, many circumstances which occurred more than a hundred years before, but in no instance could they recollect where we might procure a copy of their baptismal register.”

On the 29th of June, 1844, in reviewing ‘Neurypnology ; or, the Rationale of Nervous Sleep,’ by James Braid, and ‘Mesmerism,’ by William Lang, it is said :—“We have often expressed our opinion of the so-called sciences of Phrenology and Mesmerism, and had hoped that both would, ere this, have been consigned to the lumber-room, where most people of common sense have stowed astrology, alchemy, hobgoblins, and witches ; but we find from the books before us that we were mistaken, and that these two monstrosities, unable to stand alone,

1844.
Mesmerism.

have entered into the bands of matrimony, and, according to Mr. Lang, ‘the Rev. La Roy Sunderland is understood to have been the individual who first, on the other side of the Atlantic, proclaimed the banns of the union between mesmerism and phrenology.’ We should have anticipated a curious progeny from such a union, but the result, as detailed in these volumes, has exceeded anything that the most grotesque imagination could have looked for; but we must refer those who can take an interest in such sciences, to the works themselves.”

Mesmerism :
Miss
Martineau.

This was followed, on the 23rd of November, by the first of a series of five papers on mesmerism by Miss Martineau, in which, as is well known, she relates the causes which led to her belief in mesmerism, among others her recovery from illness by means of mesmeric treatment alone; also the supposed revelation to her servant Jane of the wreck of the ship *Henry* at Tynemouth. All these statements were thoroughly investigated in the most careful manner, one of the staff being sent down to Tynemouth specially for the purpose. The result was a reply to the whole of Miss Martineau’s statements, and the *Athenæum* trusted that Miss Martineau would lay aside all pride and all fear, and acknowledge openly and honestly that she had

been imposed on, no matter by whom her confidence had been so cruelly abused.

During this year much space is taken up by the subject of Polar expeditions, including a series of letters addressed to Sir John Barrow by Dr. King, who accompanied Sir George Back and the overland exploring party. These letters advocated a Polar land journey.

Polar
expeditions:
Dr. King.

On February 15th, 1845, an article appears on the new lithographic machine, in the working of which steam power is substituted for manual labour. "Not only is the rate of printing greatly accelerated, and the cost of the process proportionally diminished, by this new application of steam-power; but the pressman, relieved of the only laborious part of his work, brings unexhausted energies, and a steadier hand, to the nice operations of inking and registering; and is thus enabled to produce impressions of superior and *uniform* quality."

1845.
New steam
lithographic
machine.

The number for April 26th contains an article on the Criminal Returns: Metropolitan Police for 1844, which showed that the number of persons taken into custody had decreased from 72,824 in 1831 to 62,522 in 1844, whilst the committals for trial in the same years had increased from 2,955 to 4,304, and the convictions from 1,932 to 3,126.

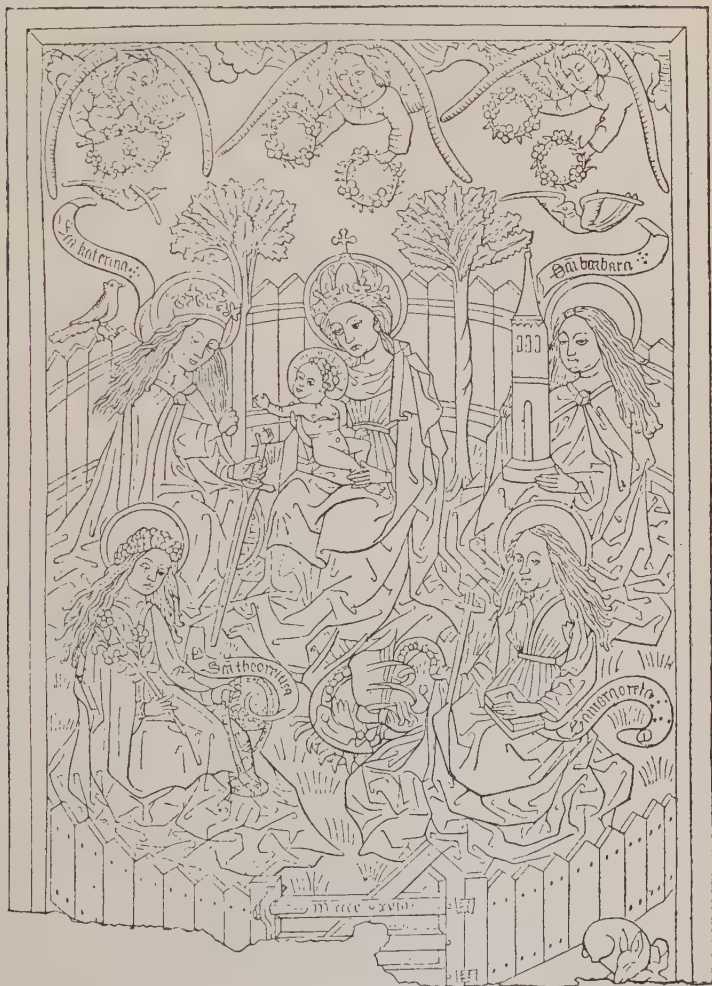
Criminal
returns.

The issue for the 4th of October contains a

transcript of the Malines print, of the discovery of which readers had been informed on the 23rd of November, 1844. A reproduction of it is here given. Hitherto it had been supposed that the St. Christopher was the oldest impression from a wood block *bearing a date*, this date being, as is well known, 1423, while the Malines bears that of the year 1418. The article states:—"Much has been conjectured, and not a little asserted, in regard to more ancient specimens of wood engraving than the St. Christopher: but conjecture, however ingenious, and assertion, however bold, have failed alike to demonstrate *infallibly* the existence of a wood-cut anterior to the year 1423. That such existed there was little doubt; but, as M. de Reiffenberg has said, in discussing this identical question, the style and manner which indicate a period cannot be held conclusive for fixing the precise year in which a work of art was executed. What was demanded for the St. Christopher, and, after all, never withheld, was that no wood engraving bearing an earlier date was known. It remained for the accident of last year to determine positively that which hitherto had been only supposition, and to ante-date by five years the invention of this style of art. A similar accident may one day put us in possession of an impression from a wood block

The oldest
wood
engraving
with a date.

The Malines
print, 1418.



FACSIMILE OF THE MALINES PRINT, 1418.

earlier than 1418; but for the same reason that the St. Christopher has until now been considered the first, the Malines print must rank henceforward as the earliest known."

The number for November 8th records that Faraday had announced at the meeting of the Council of the Royal Institution on the previous Monday "a very remarkable discovery, which appears to connect the imponderable agencies yet closer together, if it does not indeed prove that Light, Heat and Electricity are merely modifications of one great universal principle. This discovery is, that a beam of polarized light is deflected by the electric current, so that it may be made to rotate between the poles of a magnet; and, as we understand, the converse of this, that electro-magnetic rotations may be produced by the agency of light. Thus the problem which has disturbed science for a long period as to the power of magnetizing iron by the sun's rays, as stated by Mrs. Somerville, Morrichini and others, receives satisfactory elucidation from the indefatigable industry of Mr. Faraday. Already has he proved the identity of machine, chemical, magnetic and animal electricity; and now, advancing a step higher in the inquiry, he finds the most ethereal principle with which we are acquainted capable of producing phenomena which have hitherto

Faraday's
discoveries.

been regarded as the exclusive property of ponderable bodies only. Light, the subtle agent of vision, the source of all the beauty of colour, is now shown to have some close relation with electricity, to which has long been referred many of the vital functions. As life and organization exist only where there is light, this discovery of Mr. Faraday's would appear to advance us towards some knowledge of those physiological phenomena which are the most recondite subjects of science."

Parks for
the people.

Kennington
Common.

On November 22nd indignation is expressed "that, while Manchester, and Birmingham, and we believe Glasgow, are honourably spending thousands, to get open spaces for the exercise of the children of toil, we see, in London, the continual attempts to appropriate, for exclusive uses, the existing common - grounds which lie nearest to the reach of pining hearts and weary limbs. Hampstead, Greenwich, and Primrose Hill have all, in turn, been threatened; and now the spirit of inclosure, it seems, has reached that immediate grassy outskirts of the south, Kennington Common. There is no other feature of interest in this particular spot than those of air and room; but the value of these is increasing every day. The occupants of the surrounding houses, it appears, wish to have these blessings to themselves, and propose, if the public will be so good

as to let them, to skirt the common with an iron railing, and to lay it out as a 'trim garden,' wherein 'retired leisure' may 'take its pleasure,' without having the poor and laborious between the wind and its nobility. This is the history of these encroachments everywhere. Men come and build up houses on the edge of a common because it is pleasant; and once located, they say the common is an appendage of the houses, and we will have it to ourselves. Of course, a reason was never wanting when a wrong was to be done; and this daring advance against the humbler classes is made, as many others have been, under cover of the moralities. Kennington Common, it appears, offers a field for objectionable meetings and assemblages. Magnates of Kennington!—this is an accident, not an essential, of the place—as of all others in the neighbourhood of large towns, to say nothing of the little ones.....The remedy here is the same as elsewhere. A couple of extra policemen will keep out bad company, without the necessity of throwing up a stockade. And then, it has, of course, not occurred to you—for which reason we state it—that the inclosure for yourselves of this free space would be a grosser immorality than any one of the immoralities which it intends to shut out, and more sweeping and wholesale than the amount of them all."

1846.
Prison
reform:
Capt.
Maconochie.

On the 21st of February, 1846, and again on March 21st, there are articles on crime and imprisonment. On the former date satisfaction is expressed that Capt. Maconochie is still zealously engaged in his benevolent labours for rendering secondary punishments morally productive, and also to "hear from himself that he is steadily advancing towards his object. It would be difficult to overrate the social and political importance of the subject which he has taken under his charge. It is very remarkable how far, in such matters, legislation is behind the improved moral sense and expanded intellect of society. The prison and the gallows have been spoken of as among the earliest signs of civilization; and correctly so, as testifying of those primitive steps by which society protects herself against her own criminals,—segregating her more corrupt elements for the health of the rest of the body-politic. In them we have the first rude devices of law for the purpose; into which are naturally imported the principles of brute force that made the strength of the barbarous condition out of which the young society is in the act of emerging. But if these terrible objects be the witnesses of an infant civilization, its progress is as truly marked by their gradual disappearance from the land. The law of force applied in a young society should give way to

that of persuasion in one more advanced. The wisdom whose first instinct it was to build up the gaol should, in the theory of its perfection, teach us how finally to do without it:—and in the meantime, and with a view to that result, from a terror it should be converted into a teacher; and sermons should be preached to the offender from its walls of stone.....It is wonderful how little the maturity of the world has got beyond the elementary lesson. To separate was the first needful step; to turn that separation to useful ends should have been the next:—the first was for the health of the body social; the second care should have been for the health of the separated part. That the diseased members should yet be thrown together, not as into hospitals for moral healing, but only to corrupt each other and fester in their common rottenness, is to nurse a plague in the body-social under pretence of a cure.....That, at this late period of time, society should have made no adequate attempts to reclaim that large section of itself which, in too many cases, its own defective arrangements have seduced into crime, is a double reproach, as at once a neglect of its duties and a waste of its strength.” One of the chief features in Capt. Maconochie’s plan was to sentence the criminal not to hard labour *for a given time*, but to a certain amount of labour,

the time of whose performance industry and good conduct might shorten.

The dwell-
ings of the
poor.

The unhealthy condition of the dwellings of the poor was at this time occupying public attention, and the number for March 14th contains an account of the meeting of the shareholders of the Metropolitan Association for Improving the Dwellings of the Industrious Classes to receive the first report. The scheme was not to assist the poor by offering them a gift; the industrious man should pay the full value for his house, but for that sum he should possess a salubrious and commodious dwelling, instead of one in which cleanliness and comfort found no place. Lord Morpeth stated that a return of 8, 9, or 10 per cent. might be expected upon the capital, but the promoters determined to limit the dividend to 5 per cent.

Lord
Ashley.

On the 30th of May a report is given of the second annual meeting of the Society for Improving the Labouring Classes, at which Lord Ashley took the chair. The committee, it appeared, experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining land for carrying out their allotment system. In Middlesex, Hertfordshire, and at Canterbury, eleven, ten, and sixteen acres respectively had been taken; 6,200*l.* had been expended on model lodging-houses; the inmates of them had been constantly resident for nine

months ; the accommodation given was at two-thirds the usual rate, and yielding more than 5 per cent. on the capital. The Society did not contemplate the improvement of the condition of the working classes by its own efforts on a large scale, its object being by models and examples to show the poor themselves the way in which their condition might be improved, and to induce the wealthy to lay out their capital in this way, and yet to receive a fair profit on their outlay. Prince Albert sent a donation of 100*l.*, and it was resolved to erect another model lodging - house in St. Giles's, capable of accommodating one hundred persons, the cost of which would be 4,000*l.*

Donation
from Prince
Albert.

On April 25th is announced the death, in his seventy-second year, of Mr. Thomas Tegg, the well-known publisher of Cheapside. He was generally believed to have been the original of Twigg in Hood's 'Tylney Hall.'

Thomas
Tegg.

In the same number it is also announced that the British and the French governments had granted permission to the projectors of the submarine telegraph to lay it down from coast to coast, the site selected being from Cape Grisnez to the South Foreland.

Telegraphic
communi-
cation with
France.

The first number of the *Daily News* had been issued on the 21st of January, Charles Dickens, as is well known, being the editor ; but on the

The *Daily
News.*

9th of February he resigned, "tired to death and quite worn out." He was succeeded by his friend John Forster, and in April Mr. Dilke was invited to take the management of the paper, Forster still remaining editor. Mr. Dilke at once adopted the plan which had proved so successful with the *Athenæum*, and the price was reduced from 5*d.* to 2½*d.* The immediate result of the change was to raise the circulation from a declining one of about 4,000 to an increasing one of over 22,000. During the three years Mr. Dilke was manager, John Francis often rendered valuable assistance in the commercial department, the subscription list being placed under his control. To encourage the newsvendors to push the sale of the paper, he gave them the names of subscribers living in their neighbourhood, that they might supply the copies instead of their being sent direct from the office. He followed the same plan with all new subscribers.

CHAPTER IV.

THE ATHENÆUM, 1846—1847.

THE editorship of the *Athenæum* was on the 23rd of May, 1846, entrusted to Mr. T. K. Hervey. Mr. Hervey was then in his forty-second year, and had been for a long time a valuable contributor to current literature, both in prose and poetry. He was a sound critic, and Mr. Dilke felt entire confidence in placing the editorship of the paper in his hands. Mr. Hepworth Dixon at this time also became a contributor. The years 1846 and 1847 were years of great progress for the paper.

1846.

Mr. Dilke
entrusts the
editorship to
Mr. T. K.
Hervey.

In the number for June 20th, 1846, a notice is given of the presentation, at a public dinner at Blackwall, of the national testimonial to Mr. Rowland Hill for his services in the cause of cheap postage. The nett sum presented was 13,360*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* The same paragraph announces from Manchester that after the passing of the Bill for the Repeal of the Corn Laws it is intended to raise by public subscription a sum of 100,000*l.*, to be offered to Mr. Cobden as a memorial of his country's gratitude.

Presentation
to Rowland
Hill.

Sir Moses
Montefiore,
baronetcy
conferred.

On July 4th announcement is made that the Queen, by the advice of the retiring minister, Sir Robert Peel, had conferred a baronetcy upon Sir Moses Montefiore, "the well-earned reward of his labours in the cause of humanity, not the least conspicuous (and we trust effectual) of which has been his late generous expedition to the foot of the Russian autocrat's very throne, in behalf of his oppressed co-religionists."

The repeal
of the
Corn Laws.

On the 11th of July the "Weekly Gossip" commenced with congratulations upon the passing of the Corn Importation Bill, saying that the *Athenæum* had no "concern whatever with the politics of party—or even with state politics, as such: yet there are occasional phases of the political world which it cannot pass without a word of notice—and the present is one. We have arrived at a great moral-political crisis in English—and, doubtless in European—history; the consequences of which.....it is impossible wholly to grasp.....On the banner of a ministerial leader are, at length, written.....many of those great principles of moral and social reform for which the *Athenæum* has, for years, and with unflagging earnestness, been contending. Public education, in its comprehensive sense—the moral treatment of the criminal—the sanatory improvement of our towns and villages—are all measures to an anxious promotion of which the

Moral and
social
reforms for
which the
Athenæum
had
contended.

columns of this paper bear large witness—and all make a part of the new ministerial manifesto. What share the *Athenæum* may have had, among other moral agencies which have laboured honestly and earnestly in the same cause, in advancing these great social principles and educating the public mind for their reception, we will not even pause to inquire, amidst the satisfaction with which we regard the prospect of their final triumph.....The immediate feeling, after the great struggle in which the world of politicians and philanthropists and economists has just been engaged—and whose triumph has opened not only the markets of the earth, but, we hope, the treasures of the mind—is as if a great calm had fallen down upon the national heart, amid which the voice of wisdom is at length distinctly heard;—as if the battle of monopoly which has been fought for centuries, and ever to the people's cost, had at length terminated by the storming of its last stronghold; and statesmen, released from that long warfare, on both sides, had suddenly found time to attend to the true interests of mankind."

On the 8th of August mention is made of Mr. Mackinnon's Public Cemeteries Bill, to prevent all interments within the precincts of large towns or populous places; to prevent dead bodies from being kept in the rooms of the

Public
Cemeteries
Bill.

poorer classes for an indefinite time, a practice inducing many pestilential disorders; and to limit in some measure the exorbitant charges of undertakers and others, which the poor are unable to pay. This bill was withdrawn on the understanding that its principle would be adopted by the Government next session.

Lord Morpeth and the homes of the poor.

We also find Lord Morpeth, ever anxious for the public good, obtaining "leave to bring in bills for remedying that evil consequence, to the poor, of our Metropolitan improvements, which drives them from their wretched homes into abodes yet more wretched, by 'empowering the Commissioners of her Majesty's Woods to sell, on certain conditions, sites for dwellings for the poor out of the hereditary estates of the Crown'; and 'out of lands vested in them under acts for the improvement of the metropolis.'"

Death of Baboo Dwarkanauth Tagore.

In the same number the death of Baboo Dwarkanauth Tagore is noticed—a Brahmin of the highest caste, who broke through the trammels of ceremonials by which his countrymen had been so long fettered, and by his munificence wrote his name on every project which had their happiness and amelioration for its purpose. "The Hindoo College, the Hospital, and the School of Anatomy, at Calcutta, are all standing memorials of the Baboo's zeal and liberality in the causes of charity and

improvement; while our readers will not have forgotten his munificent donation of 10,000*l.* to the District Charitable Fund.....He came to Europe in search of the friendships which his great character had earned — and found there, like his distinguished compatriot Ram-mohun Roy, a foreign grave.”

His gift of
10,000*l.*

The great hailstorm of August 1st, in which the florists and nurserymen in the suburbs suffered so severely (the losses sustained by them in the neighbourhood of Stockwell, Clapham, and Brixton alone being estimated at no less a sum than 18,000*l.*), brought an interesting letter from Prof. Hunt, calling attention to many remarkable features of the storm:—“Not merely were the hailstones of an unusual size,—many of them being between three and four inches in diameter,—but it is evident, from the directions in which the largest amount of damage was done to windows, &c., that the storm must have moved along a curved line from the S.E. towards the W.,—and then towards the N.E.,—having, at the same time, an internal motion,—or, probably, a series of currents setting from the circumference towards the centre, along its line of direction. In this respect, it resembled in a remarkable degree the hurricanes of the tropics;—and that it was a circular mass of vapour, passing by a line as nearly as possible

The great
hailstorm of
August 1st.

Prof. Hunt
on remark-
able features
of the storm.

in the direction above indicated, will be evident to any person who will be at the labour of examining the accounts given of the localities which have suffered most severely. Although to the east of Gracechurch Street a considerable quantity of hail fell, yet, it was remarked that it was more like balls of snow than hail. At Walworth, Kennington, Brixton, and the West End of town, the hailstones were hard masses of ice,—whilst at Kew no hail fell.....The singular forms of the hailstones attracted much attention. There were but few of the larger ones round, and many of them had a distinct crystalline arrangement.” Mr. Hunt then quotes from the *Philosophical Transactions* of 1700, in which a description is given of a storm of hail singularly similar, which took place in Lancashire on the 29th of April, 1697.

Mr. Thoms's
articles on
folk-lore.

On the 22nd of August Mr. Thoms, under the pseudonym of “Ambrose Merton,” commenced a series of articles on popular antiquities or popular literature, to which he gave the name of “Folk-Lore,” as he considered the subjects to be “more a Lore than a Literature, and would be most aptly described by a good Saxon compound, Folk-Lore,—*the Lore of the People*.” Mr. Thoms suggested that “no one who has made the manners, customs, observances, superstitions, ballads, proverbs, &c., of the olden time

his study, but must have arrived at two conclusions:—the first, how much that is curious and interesting in these matters is now entirely lost—the second, how much may yet be rescued by timely exertion. What Hone endeavoured to do in his ‘Every-Day Book,’ &c., the *Athenæum*, by its wider circulation, may accomplish ten times more effectually—gather together the infinite number of minute facts, illustrative of the subject I have mentioned, which are scattered over the memories of its thousands of readers, and preserve them in its pages.....How many such facts would one word from you evoke, from the north and from the south—from John o’ Groat’s to the Land’s End! How many readers would be glad to show their gratitude for the novelties which you, from week to week, communicate to them, by forwarding to you some record of old Time—some recollection of a now neglected custom—some fading legend, local tradition, or fragmentary ballad!”

The editor of the *Athenæum* in a note says:—
 “We have taken some time to weigh the suggestion of our correspondent—desirous to satisfy ourselves that any good of the kind which he proposes could be effected in such space as we are able to spare from the many other demands upon our columns; and having before our eyes the fear of that shower of trivial

The
Athenæum
 opens its
 pages for the
 discussion.

communications which a notice in conformity with his suggestion is too likely to bring. We have finally decided that, if our antiquarian correspondents be earnest and well-informed, and subject their communications to the condition of having something worthy to communicate, we may.....add to the amusement of a large body of our readers and be the means of effecting some valuable salvage for the future historian of old customs and feelings, within a compass that shall make no unreasonable encroachment upon our columns. With these views, however, we must announce to our future contributors under the above head, that their communications will be subjected to a careful sifting—both as regards value, authenticity and novelty; and that they will save both themselves and us much unnecessary trouble if they will refrain from offering any facts or speculations which do not at once *need* recording and deserve it. Brevity will be always a recommendation—where there are others; and great length in any article will, of necessity, exclude it, even where its merits would recommend.”

Advice and
caution to
corre-
spondents.

These Folk-lore articles were continued until 1849, when it was found that the correspondence had become so extensive that more space was required than could be devoted to it in the

pages of the *Athenæum*, and Mr. Dilke suggested to Mr. Thoms that the time had now come when a journal entirely devoted to these subjects might be started with a fair chance of success. Mr. Thoms, after carefully considering the matter, decided to start *Notes and Queries*, the first number of which was published on the 3rd of November, 1849.

*Notes and
Queries.*

On August 15th, 1846, Prof. Schönbein's invention of guncotton is announced; and in the number for October 17th it is added: "We understand that a hundred weight of the gun cotton is on its way from Basle to Woolwich; having been ordered by Government with the view of testing its applicability to heavy ordnance."

Guncotton
invented by
Prof.
Schönbein.

The *Athenæum* had long agitated for a suitable building for the safe depositing of the State Papers, and on the 6th of February, 1847, the editor has "reason to believe that the site of a new building for the general custody of the Public Records, is all but fixed on the Rolls Estate in Chancery Lane—and the plans for the structure have, we believe, been prepared."*

1847.
New
Public Re-
cord Office.

* The number for August 21st states the estimated cost of the new building to be 175,000*l.*, and that of the fittings 31,500*l.* "The houses and grounds which it will be necessary to purchase—including the erection

Model
lodging-
houses.

In the same number mention is made of progress in the scheme for erecting model lodging-houses — an extensive building in George Street, St. Giles's, was approaching completion, while another had already been opened in East Smithfield.

Prof. De
Morgan and
Sir William
Hamilton.

On May 8th appears a review of Prof. De Morgan's statement in answer to an assertion made by Sir William Hamilton, and the number for May 29th contains an article on Sir William Hamilton's letter "to Augustus De Morgan, Esq., Professor of Mathematics in University College, London, on his claim to an Independent Re-Discovery of a New Principle in the Theory of Syllogism." The review states:—"The subject-matter which lies at the foundation of this quarrel is one much too technical for examination in our columns. The original pamphlet of Mr. De Morgan—this answer of Sir William Hamilton — and the London Professor's rejoinder, which appears to-day in our columns in the shape of an advertisement—contain amongst them the entire case, and include all the documents necessary for directing the judgment of those whom such matters more immediately concern. The de-
of several short streets in the immediate neighbourhood —will occasion a further outlay of 243,000*l.* :—making a total cost of 450,000*l.*"

cision on the scientific difference we will leave to the logicians; confining ourselves to the expression of a mere literary opinion (which we could not with propriety withhold) on the tone and temper of this pamphlet by Sir William Hamilton. The Scotch Professor's hasty charge against Professor De Morgan of dishonest appropriation, rashly brought, is here ungraciously—though unequivocally—retracted. Professing to have gained much subsequent enlightenment as to Mr. De Morgan's character, and finding an accusation of the kind wholly untenable against him, Sir William withdraws the latter; and rests the defence of his intellectual property on other grounds. This was the main object of Professor De Morgan's sudden appearance in print; and his pamphlet has, thus, gained its avowed end.....The tone of glaring assumption and imperious dictation, the spirit of insolence in which Sir William Hamilton addresses a brother professor—and one highly distinguished—would be offences in any discussion, but are especially so in a discussion like this. Nothing can well be more unphilosophical than the temper that lingeringly continues to hover around the confines of the very charge which it had felt the necessity for substantively abandoning—or, in a matter of stated dispute, makes its proprietor's own alleged

Sir William
Hamilton's
ungracious
retractation

superiority a part of the case.....The documents for deciding between the two professors are before the world.....and the matters disputed must be decided on grounds more certain than either the heat of the one or the calm, though determined, bearing of the other.”

Death
of Dr.
Chalmers.

On the 5th of June is announced the death of Dr. Chalmers, “the most distinguished of modern Scotch divines, the father and leader of the Free Church of Scotland, and one whose works and character have given him a European reputation.....Among his many academic honours, he had received the degree of LL.D. from the University of Oxford, and had been elected a corresponding Member of the Royal Institute of France—distinctions, it is said, never before accorded to a Presbyterian divine. His collected works fill twenty-five duodecimo volumes.” On the 13th of November Dr. Chalmers receives a further tribute from the *Athenæum*, the leading article being devoted to a long review of the first volume of his posthumous works (edited by Dr. Hanna), “these final fruits of the knowledge and experience of a good great man.” After rendering high testimony to the varied gifts of this “social reformer,” and yet at the same time “sound political economist,” the fact is recorded that Chalmers by his own exertions raised funds “for

the endowment in the Established Church of more than 100 churches, and afterwards provided for the maintenance of more than 400 new cures and as many new schools out of the pale of that church.....In person Dr. Chalmers was one of those burly persons in whom Carlyle delights as heroes; and nothing less than the robust form and powerful constitution of this great-headed man could have sustained the unremitting labours which he underwent during his long life of three score and ten."

On the 4th of September appears a notice of 'The Bottle,' by George Cruikshank:—"The clever caricaturist of Fashion and Folly—the man who has spent a profusion of talent on little bits of copper, and in a way in which he is still unequalled—has here extended his range of observations—thrown caricature aside as far as old habits would allow him, and attempted a story after the manner of Hogarth.....The fearful story, told on paper as Mr. Cruikshank has told it, is worth, in absolute utility to society and morals, a bushel of sermons or a barrow-load of tracts. It is sold cheap enough—eight plates for a shilling; and it ought to be given to the wife of every man and the husband of every woman in any way addicted to the sin which it describes—that the lesson which it reads may have its good purposes carried out, and some

'The Bottle,'
by George
Cruikshank.

one at least be reclaimed from the crimes which it represents.”

Mechanics’
Institutions :
their
pecuniary
difficulties.

The number for September 18th contains a communication signed “H.” (Prof. Hunt), containing some valuable remarks on Mechanics’ Institutions. Two of the metropolitan institutions had been abandoned, and several others were struggling with their pecuniary difficulties, and the time seemed suitable for a few suggestions. Prof. Hunt observes :—“When these aids to instruction were first started, they were looked to as one of the most powerful agencies for accelerating the moral and intellectual improvement of man. After the first experiment had been tried, so great was its success that there was scarcely a town of any size in England in which one of these organizations in some form was not attempted.....The *Mechanic* was to have been schooled into the enjoyment of the delights of intellectual recreations ; but it soon became evident that the machinery of these societies was more fitted for the middle than for the working classes,—and consequently, but few of these Institutions were in spirit what they professed to be in name. The British workman, with the prejudices of his class, found himself brought into connexion with another order of men full of the pride and prejudices of theirs. According to the rules of classometry (so very

More fitted
for the
middle than
for the work-
ing classes.

generally denied, but constantly discernible) the mechanic was gradually moved out of any power in the management; and his place was occupied by some one whose claim was rather the smoothness of his hands than his intellectual acquirements or business habits.....The permanency of a Mechanics' Institution must depend upon the interest which every individual member takes in its progress; and as the regular attendance to hear lectures on Music and Mesmerism, Chemistry and Comedy (all useful and interesting in their way), leads to no fixed point, and consequently to no concentrating interest, the result is a habit of discursive reading without thought, and a general carelessness which operates by reflexion, as it were, to the destruction of the institution from which the bad habit grew." Then follow suggestions for a better system without interfering with pre-existing arrangements—members of each institute to "organize themselves into classes, for pursuing some especial branches of inquiry which might be of immediate and local interest. Suppose Botanical, Geological, Mineralogical, Natural History, or Archæological classes to be formed. The business of each member of each class should be to gather local specimens and collect local information. The interest which would arise from the habit of searching

Plans for
the future.

the hedgerows, the rocks, the seashore, or the fields—of studying antiquities in any form, or collecting traditionary history—would very soon be sufficient to insure regular meetings of the classes Valuable as classes for learning languages are, more important would be those which should teach the interpretation of the ‘tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,’ and ‘sermons in stones.’ ”

‘Jane Eyre.’ On the 23rd of October “Jane Eyre: an Autobiography. Edited by Currer Bell,” is thus noticed: “There is so much power in this novel as to make us overlook certain eccentricities in the invention, which trench in one or two places on what is improbable, if not unpleasant..... The pretty, frivolous, little faëry Adele, with her hereditary taste for dress, coquetry, and pantomimic grace, is true to life. Perhaps, too—we dare not speak more positively—there is truth in the abrupt, strange, clever Mr. Rochester; and in the fearless, original way in which the strong man and the young governess travel over each other’s minds till, in a puzzled and uncomfortable manner enough, they come to a mutual understanding. Neither is the mystery of Thornfield an exaggeration of reality. We, ourselves, know of a large mansion-house in a distant county, where, for many years, a miscreant was kept in close confinement,—and his

existence, at best, only darkly hinted in the neighbourhood. Some such tale as this was told in a now-forgotten novel—‘Sketches of a Seaport Town.’.....As exciting strong interest of its old-fashioned kind ‘Jane Eyre’ deserves high praise.”

The *Athenæum* had been among the first to make known the fact that ether could be applied to the production of a state of insensibility in which surgical operations might be performed without pain, and predicted with confidence complete success. On November 27th reviews appear of Dr. Snow’s book ‘On the Inhalation of the Vapour of Ether’ and Dr. Simpson’s ‘Account of a New Anæsthetic Agent’: “Although some medical men still hold out, refusing to mitigate pain by this agent [ether], it is now very generally employed,—and with the most perfect success.....Our object now, however, is not so much to direct attention to the administration of ether as to record the fact of another chemical body having been discovered which exerts the same influence upon the system, but is much more readily administered and free from some of the disagreeable consequences that now and then attend the taking of ether. This substance is called chloroform, or perchloride of formyle; and, curiously enough, has little resemblance to ether in its composition. Ether is

Application
of ether.

Chloroform
discovered.

Souberain
and Liebig.

Prof.
Simpson.

composed of oxygen, carbon, and hydrogen,—whilst chloroform has no oxygen, and in addition to carbon and hydrogen contains chlorine. This substance was originally discovered by Souberain and Liebig;—but the properties of its vapour were first ascertained a few weeks ago by Prof. Simpson, of Edinburgh.....We have made inquiries, and find that at several hospitals in London this new remedy has been tried, and that it fully bears out the statements of Prof. Simpson.” The use of chloroform made rapid progress, and on December 4th it is stated that “in some of our chemists’ establishments they have a difficulty to make it fast enough to meet the demand.”

Anxiety as
to Sir John
Franklin’s
fate.

The public anxiety as to the fate of Sir John Franklin during the whole of this year was very great, and the *Athenæum* was constantly urging upon the Government “that nothing might be omitted or postponed which the real circumstances of the case demanded”; and on the 27th of November readers are informed that “three Expeditions will be sent to the Arctic regions:—one will be despatched in the course of a few days to Behring’s Straits; the second will sail early in the ensuing spring to Baffin’s Bay, and will be under the command of Sir James Ross; and the third will consist of an overland Expedition, to be placed under the

direction of Sir John Richardson." Officers acquainted with the navigation of the Arctic seas and with the intentions of Sir John Franklin continued to hope that he had succeeded in passing Behring's Straits.

On the 25th of December information is given that "the surveys and preliminary works for a canal through the Isthmus of Suez are proceeding vigorously; and the Pacha is resolved to effect it if the jealousy of rival governments do not prevent him."

Canal
through the
Isthmus of
Suez.

CHAPTER V.

THE ATHENÆUM, 1848.

1848.
The
Learned
Societies.

DURING the year 1848 considerable space was given to letters from Fellows of the Royal and other societies, consequent upon the changes about to be made in the constitution of the Royal Society, many of the Fellows being in favour of the suggestions made by the *Athenæum* in two articles which had appeared as far back as the 11th and 18th of April, 1846, 'On the Literary and Learned Societies.' There was at that time much dissatisfaction as to their working and progress, or rather non-progress. A great number of societies had of late years sprung into existence, all of which had started with "splendid promises." The first article stated: "It appears to us that the vast majority of them do nothing—are actually stumbling-blocks in the way of enterprise and exertion; that the whole income of more than one-half of them is expended in working the mere machinery, salaries, and so forth, while the object for which they were established is entirely lost sight of. Some three years since, for example, we drew

attention to the proceedings of the Royal Society of Literature.....It was shown, from the published accounts, that, in the twentieth year of its existence, the Society had not expended *one single shilling* in furtherance of those objects for which it was established." The article continued: "There are half a dozen other Societies to which we might refer by way of further illustration." Rent and salaries, and other expenses of the establishment, had been allowed to go on increasing, until they had swallowed up all, and more than all, the annual income.

The Royal Society of Literature.

The remedy proposed by the *Athenæum* in the second article was that the societies should unite and form one great institute, sustaining and illustrating each other. "The several branches of the same science we would gather into families, assemble under a common roof, and have waited on by the same servants," thus leaving a large reserve fund available for the special objects of each society. "The Archæological Institute and the Archæological Association should fraternize, and the Antiquaries take them home:—the Geological, with apartments found it by the government, should take the Geographical under its wing:—the Society of Arts, with one of the noblest mansions in London, should shelter the Civil Engineers, the Architects, &c.,—so intimately connected in genius and

Proposal that the societies should form one great institute.

One general
library.

so widely separated by the fact:—the Linnean should maintain the Zoological, Botanical, Microscopical, Ornithological, Entomological, and all others that now do its work.....One or two large halls for general meetings would serve the common purposes of all ; and a separate committee-room suffice for the private business of each. The Societies, too, might have each its own library, or its separate compartment in one general library; and in this department especially the value of a general organization is very conspicuous, in the great saving which might be effected by retrenching repetitions The sciences, and the various branches of the same science, include so much of knowledge that is common to all, and so illustrate each other by what is different, that corporate science has to spend her funds many times over in providing the same books for the various members of her scattered family. In the arrangement proposed, the special library of each body is but a department of a great general collection—under one roof—admirably classed by the very conditions of the case—ready for easy and instant reference—where each supplies to all and all to each the complement and entirety of scientific lore. Each body has, in fact, a general library at the mere cost of its own special one:—the saving of expense and the acquisition of strength seem

to us so striking as to need no enforcement beyond the mere proposition.....There is, of course, nothing to prevent learned Societies from entering into the combination. The greater the multiplication of bodies—which are figures on the credit side of an account—the larger the balance to the gain of science. By means of that gain, the Societies less competently endowed will be able to effect the objects for which now they strive in vain; while the richer Institutions will have an increasing fund for the purposes which they have at heart, and a great accession of power in the learned and scientific atmosphere by which they will be surrounded.” This idea was partially realized in 1857, when Burlington House became the home of the Royal, Linnean, and Chemical societies; and still further in 1873, when the Antiquaries, Royal Astronomical, and Geological societies also removed there.

The *Athenæum* for June 17th, 1848, contains an account of the meeting of the Royal Society, which had taken place on the 9th. At this meeting the Marquis of Northampton retired from the presidency, and the new statutes relating to the election of Fellows were introduced. These regulations, as is well known, restricted the number of new Fellows to be annually elected to fifteen; ten pounds

The Royal
Society :
new rules.

was to be paid on admission, and four pounds annually, or a composition of sixty pounds.*

The object of these rules was to drive out the merely aristocratic element, and to restrict the fellowship to men really connected with, or who had rendered some service to, science, so that the letters F.R.S. should have a scientific meaning. The *Athenæum* had long contended that the head of a great scientific body should be a leading scientific authority, and that the President of the Society should be the foremost scientific mind, and it suggested that the new President should be Sir John Herschel; but, as it had predicted, the Earl of Rosse was chosen as the new President, "a choice which will combine the aristocratic element, seemingly so dear to the members of the Royal Society, with the acknowledgment of a claim for service done to science, which is more befitting the theory of their character." The Royal Society seems at last to have come round to the view of the *Athenæum* "that science has nothing to do with mere heraldic stars," for Lord Wrottesley,

Earl of Rosse
elected
President.

* The result of these rules was to reduce the number of Fellows from 839 in 1847 to 626 in 1866, to 567 in 1875, and to 552 in 1877. In October, 1885, there were 524 Fellows, including the five Royal and the forty-nine Foreign members.

who succeeded the Earl of Rosse, was the last peer to be elected President.

On the 24th of June and 1st of July long reviews are given to Weld's 'History of the Royal Society.'

Weld's
'History
of the Royal
Society.'

Great anxiety respecting the fate of Sir John Franklin was felt during the whole of 1848. On February 5th readers are informed that active preparations are being made to equip the expeditions under Sir James Ross and Sir John Richardson. Dr. Rae was to accompany Richardson. On the 26th the Government are urged to offer a reward to any whaler or other vessel, English or foreign, bringing intelligence. On the 1st of April notice is given that Lady Franklin had offered a reward of 2,000*l.*; and on the 13th of May it is announced that the *Enterprise* and *Investigator*, under Sir James Ross, had left for the Arctic regions, the ships fully provisioned for three years, Sir James's instructions being strictly limited to the search for the missing mariners. In October came Esquimaux reports that two large boats full of white men had been seen to the east of the Mackenzie river, and the *Athenæum*, to allay public anxiety, sent the information to the daily papers in anticipation of its issue of the 14th. The year, however, closes without hope, and on November 25th it is announced that "the latest

Continued
anxiety
respecting
the fate of
Sir John
Franklin.

of the whalers have come in—and brought no tidings. Floating or camping they have seen no trace of the lost Expedition.”

Founding
of the
Ransome
Institution
at Ipswich.

On the 15th of January, 1848, announcement is made of the opening at Ipswich of a museum for the collection of specimens of British ornithology, entomology, and geology. This institution, founded by Mr. Ransome, was to be after a plan so often urged in the *Athenæum*, namely, to instruct “the labouring classes by rendering them familiar with some of the elementary forms and principles of the things which are the subject of their daily avocations.”

The Channel
Islands and
the stamp
duty on
newspapers.

In the same number attention is called to the abuses which flow from that “particular privilege enjoyed by the Channel Islands,” exemption from the stamp duty on newspapers. These dependencies, as well as the Isle of Man, had the right of transmitting their papers unstamped post free to all parts of the empire. The result was that in Jersey alone there were thirteen journals free from both stamp and advertisement duty, filled with matter filched from the English papers, and having a forced circulation in England of 60,000 copies weekly.

The great
Belgian
bibliogra-
phic hoax.

On February 26th appears an account of the great bibliographic hoax which had been perpetrated in 1840 by M. Chalons, President of the Society of Bibliographers at Mons, who had

caused to be sent to all the most eminent book collectors in Belgium a catalogue announcing the sale by auction on the 10th of August at Binche, near Mons, in Hainault, "the very extraordinary and unique library belonging to the old Count de Fortsas." The catalogue stated that "the peculiar mania of the deceased count was, never to admit a single volume into his collection of books which had been mentioned by any other bibliographer; and that whenever he learned that a work which he possessed had been so mentioned, such work was doomed for sale at any price." Details were given of the Count, his family, country residence, last illness, and the day of his death, "all put in so plausible a form as to attach every apparent authenticity to the Catalogue. The books themselves were admirably hit off in the way of description:—the several titles being skilfully adapted to the individual peculiarities of eminent collectors, so as to vary the snare. Bibliographical notes explained how the various works enumerated had escaped the notice of the most laborious and pains-taking connoisseurs,—the circumstances connected with the publication of each—the number of copies originally printed,—and such other facts as were assumed to constitute the present elements of the respective historical value. All these things were stated with an

"Count de
Fortsas's
unique
library."

air of verisimilitude that completely succeeded in entrapping the mass of bibliographers throughout the kingdom." The hoax was only discovered when the Belgian bookworms arrived at Binche, and found the notary whose name had been given in complete ignorance of the matter. The mortification of the amateurs was so great that they resolved that if possible the world should not know of it, but unfortunately the librarian of the Royal Library of Brussels, Baron de Reiffenberg—a book connoisseur of the first order—had obtained a grant for the purpose of purchasing for the royal collection, and he was obliged to go back and return the money. This raised the laugh against the *savants* throughout the public offices, and the matter could no longer be kept secret. "This well-planned and well-executed literary hoax had no sordid motive. It was purely a joke." M. Chalons "collected all the letters by amateurs giving commissions.....and if ever this collection shall be published—as they say it some day will be—we may expect curious revelations on the taste of bookworms in France and Belgium."*

Baron de Reiffenberg obtains a grant to purchase for the Royal Library of Brussels.

* The British Museum has a reprint dated Mons, 1857 :—"Pichauld (Jean Nepomucène Auguste), Comte de Fortsas : Documents et Particularités Historiques sur le Catalogue du Comte de F. A jeu-d'esprit by R. Chalons, edited by E. Hoyois."

On the 4th of March reference is made to a report circulated, "evidently as a feeler, to the effect that letters are to be again subjected to a higher rate of postage."

Reported
increase in
letter
postage.

The *Athenæum* had constantly called attention to the endowments for educational purposes existing in all parts of the country, with a view to aid in any movement that might render them more available for the wants and interests of the time, and on the 18th of March approval is expressed of the suggestion made in the *Daily News* that auditors should be appointed to inspect and publish the accounts of all such schools. The writer in the *Athenæum* states that "in England and Wales there are more than 420 of these ancient foundations—having revenues amounting probably to four or five times the entire sum granted by government for educational purposes even now.....At present, most of these institutions are in a state of complete inefficiency.In not a few instances the advantages of gratuitous schooling which they afford have been appropriated by classes for which the original devisor had no intention of providing—and as a consequence the contemplated objects of his charity are excluded."

Educational
endow-
ments.

Daily News
suggests ap-
pointment of
auditors.

The number for the 25th of March contains an article on the 'First Report on the Coals suited to the Steam Navy,' by Sir

Coals suited
to the Steam
Navy: First
Report.

Henry de la Beche and Dr. Lyon Playfair. This investigation was undertaken by the Admiralty at the recommendation of Mr. Joseph Hume. After referring to the past neglect of science by the Government, the article states: "A better system of things has manifested itself of late years in our Government. In the assistance which has been from time to time, at the recommendation of the Royal Society and the British Association, readily given, we have evidence of an awakening consciousness to the importance of physical inquiry.It is with satisfaction that we find the Government gathering around them men who have by their labours merited general approbation as persons to whom they can refer those questions which may be submitted to their consideration. The requirements of this great nation, with its vast and constantly increasing population, now demand every assistance that can be given by Science to render known truths available, and by the discovery of new facts which may be yet applied to make our productions keep pace with the rapidly enlarging wants of the people."

Government
salaries.

On the 1st of April the *Athenæum* published a table of salaries paid by Government, by which it was shown that messengers, housekeepers, and porters, especially of the House of Commons,

received higher payment than persons employed in a literary or scientific capacity. For instance, the doorkeeper of the House of Commons received 874*l.* a year, and the Astronomer Royal and the Principal Librarian at the British Museum received only 800*l.* each; while the Board Room porter at the Admiralty enjoyed precisely the same stipend as the third Assistant Astronomer Royal, namely, 150*l.* a year. The *Athenæum* followed up these facts by three articles on 'The Claims of Literature.' These appeared on the 8th, 15th, and 29th of July, and in demonstrating the vital importance of literature to the State, and the author's claims to share in the advantages and encouragement bestowed on other professions, contrast the position of the literary man in England with that which he holds on the Continent:—"Intellectual reputation is there an admitted claim to public honours and emoluments. The ranks of legislation and aristocracy are continually reinforced by those whose mental eminence is esteemed a sufficient title to that which is conventional. There, too, literature has its distinct institutions, and its professors liberally share in all the distinctions conferred upon merit. It is only in England that the possession of genius invalidates the claim to respect, and that the evidence of

'The Claims
of Literature.'

greatness is held to be an argument against its recognition. So accustomed have we become to this injustice that we have ceased to reason on it. It has with us all the force of a natural ordinance. We accept it as a law of soil or of climate or as a geographical necessity."

After complaining that in the recent reorganization of the Order of the Bath, for the purpose of still further extending its honours to civil merit, philosophy, poetry, and science were not included in the definition, the closing article on the 29th of July asserts: "Whatever difficulties may lie in the way of affording pecuniary aids to literary exertion, none can exist against acceding the right of a defined social position.

Proposed
Academy of
Literature.

The establishment of a corporation analogous in principle to that of the Royal Academy, though with a wider scope, might at once be effected,—such an institution being empowered to confer honorary degrees upon its members. No anomaly can be more monstrous than that of excluding the literary producer from those honours which are bestowed upon learning. The creator of thought is prohibited from the distinction conferred upon him who acquires it. He who is read *in* the classics assumes the degree which is withheld from him who may become one. Such an academy...might either be exclusively devoted to literature and science,

or embrace the Fine Arts, oratory, and the stage. An institution of this kind, founded on a basis really national, would occupy a rank of the first importance,—and to be numbered amongst its academicians would be a virtual as well as a nominal dignity. Under the auspices of this society schools might be formed for the study of the *Belles Lettres*, the arts, sciences, and rhetoric. These schools would, of course, involve the establishment of distinct professorships, and thus secure both honour and emolument to the men most eminent in their respective pursuits." It was proposed that London should have a parent institution, with branch societies in every populous town throughout the empire.

On the 29th of April the first article is devoted to Harriet Martineau's 'Eastern Life, Present and Past.' The review states: "Miss Martineau has addressed the English public on so many occasions, and such diverse subjects, that the nature of her gifts and their limit can now, we apprehend, be estimated without unfair haste or presumption. It must be admitted that her consistency includes some inconsistencies. She is lofty and enthusiastic in aspiration; and so solicitous for truth as oftentimes to defend, if not to court, what is strange; seemingly because thereby she may give one evidence of sincerity

Harriet
Martineau.

—a readiness for martyrdom. Yet, while she is so free in her own speculations, she is given to assume that her conclusions are final and to stand amazed at the bare idea of question or denial on the part of others. As a writer, she is eloquent in description—vigorous in persuasion: as an artist, at once minute and comprehensive in noting traits of character, touches of humour, indications of the poetical element—sometimes, however, so over-exquisite in arranging these, as to present that which is *upon* and that which is *beneath* the surface in one and the same plane of her picture. Hence arises some danger of disappointment to such as possess less divining power than herself,—who following her footsteps, may prove unable to behold all that she has set down concerning a given place or state of society.”

Miss
Mulock.

On the 20th of May appears an appreciative notice of Miss Mulock's ‘How to Win Love; or, Rhoda's Lesson: a Story for the Young’: “This young lady brings up pearls from deeps which might be supposed to be the haunts of only the experienced diver.....She sees the smile on the face of life if her heart detects the sigh.....Her morals are cheerful, though there are tears in them—more wholesomely and abidingly cheerful than those which have no such nourishing. In a word, Miss Mulock is a very

remarkable accession to the ranks of the lady-writers of England." On the 1st of July appears a short tale by Miss Mulock, entitled 'A Life Episode.'

On the 20th of May reference is also made to the fourth annual meeting of the supporters of the Ragged School Union, Lord Ashley in the chair. It is noted that in the first year of the Union's existence the number of schools was only 20, the teachers 200, the scholars about 2,000, and the sum received 61*l*. The second year these increased to schools 26, teachers 250, scholars 2,600, receipts 320*l*. The third year there were schools 44, teachers 450, scholars 4,700, receipts 637*l*., in addition to which a sum of 857*l*. was raised for a Refuge Fund. The fourth year the schools numbered 62, the teachers 782 voluntary and 78 paid, the scholars about 7,000, and the total receipts, including the Refuge Fund, were 1,171*l*.* After stating that from personal observation he finds the moral effect of these schools more apparent than the intellectual, the writer advocates the development of the ragged school system by the establishment of

Ragged
schools.

* The Forty-first Annual Report, 1885, shows the number of school buildings to be 187, paid teachers and monitors 154, scholars 11,757, and the total receipts, including voluntary contributions, 6,281*l*. 13*s*. 3*d*. The number of voluntary teachers on Sundays was 3,291, while the average attendance of scholars was 40,209.

Suggested
establish-
ment of in-
dustrial
schools.

industrial schools after the plan of those at Aberdeen, work and the habit of work being as necessary to honesty and sobriety as instruction. "The first trial of the kind was made, we believe, in the free city of Bremen, about seventy years ago,—and succeeded beyond all expectation. Howard, whose attention the experiment engaged very strongly, has left a charming description of the effects produced."

The friends of the Ragged School Union took this suggestion seriously into consideration, and on the 5th of August a report is given of a meeting held at the Guildhall, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor. It was agreed that when possible training should be added to the ordinary mental instruction given. The *Athenæum* in announcing this suggests the desirability of changing the name "ragged school," "a term at once repulsive to the desired pupil and disgusting to the patron." "If the industrial element be added to the teaching given, why not borrow a term from old John Bellers, and call the pariah institution—a College of Industry?" Lord Ashley, however, disapproved the change, and expressed his views at a meeting of the Field Lane Ragged School on the following Monday, and the *Athenæum* of August 12th considers his reason to be "inconclusive. The

The name
"ragged
schools" ob-
jected to.

pith of his argument is this:—The ragged classes exist as a substantive fact,—the ragged schools are consequences of that fact : *ergo*, it is profitless to change the name so long as the fact remains. This logic does not strike us as sound at all. We deny the premises. The ragged school is *not* the natural consequence of the existence of a ragged class : it has no kind of sequential relation whatever thereto. The school did not arise as a necessary adjunct of the class ; but as an institution hostile to its existence—worked with the object of exterminating the ragged class altogether. The entrance into the school is the first step *out* of the order of vice and rags—the constant aim of the teacher is to prevent relapse into it. Every scheme proposed in connexion with the school has the same ultimate object.....We see no gain to the cause of truth nor any worthy purpose to be served from calling schools for the order of poverty by the lowest and perhaps most reproachful term which its vocabulary affords.” The paragraph closes with a strong appeal to the public to aid the conductors of the Field Lane Institution in carrying out their humane object.

On the 25th of November the following pleasing circumstance is mentioned. A ragged school “had been built in Lambeth, in a spot which afterwards turned out to be very unhealthy.

Operatives
build a
school free
of charge.

On becoming aware of this, the operatives by whom it was supported gave up their evenings and holidays, and built another free of cost."

On May 19th, 1849, after making another attack upon the title "ragged," record is made that the metropolitan district now numbers 82 ragged schools and about 9,000 scholars, also 20 industrial workshops in which boys are prepared for colonial life.

John Stuart
Mill's
'Political
Economy.'

On May 27th, 1848, and on June 3rd, two long articles are devoted to a review of John Stuart Mill's 'Principles of Political Economy.' The review states: "It appears to us to be one of the most valuable merits of these volumes that Mr. Mill is not a teacher who displays any sympathy with over-drawn partialities. His political economy is not with him a substitute for every other branch of knowledge and an absorption of every other idea and faculty. Nor even within that peculiar and technical sphere of questions over which the science of Adam Smith exercises a most legitimate dominion is Mr. Mill a bigoted and an over literal judge. He can estimate with as nice a precision as he can admit with a most assuring candour the influence of causes of compensation even in instances where few if any of his predecessors have been willing to mitigate the rigidity of an abstract proposition.....There can be no great

hazard in predicting that it is precisely to this rare attribute of philosophical equilibrium that the ultimate and, we cannot doubt, great success of this work will be chiefly attributable; and it is due to Mr. Mill to bear distinctly in mind that if his book should happily attain the illustrious distinction of a classic, it is a distinction which he has had the confidence to seek and the candour modestly to avow.....Mr. Mill has attempted to write a book which shall stand in the same relation to the Political Economy of the nineteenth as the work of Smith to the Political Economy of the eighteenth century. We think he has succeeded.....His book is better arranged, and embraces a greater variety of topics, than the great model upon which it is formed,—‘The Wealth of Nations.’.....It would be an unjust judgment to withhold from Mr. Mill the commendation which belongs to the conception of a great design and its equally great fulfilment.”

The number for May 27th also records the sale at Christie's, for the price of an old song, of the Pepys portraits. Pepys by Kneller (the head engraved by R. White) was knocked down for ten guineas and a half, his nephew Jackson for seven guineas, his friend Will Hewer for five guineas and a half, the three-quarter portrait of James II.

Sale of the
Pepys
portraits.

James II.
by Kneller.

for nine guineas (this being the very portrait for which the king was sitting to Kneller when he was told that the Prince of Orange had landed), and 'The Portrait of a Musician' (so it was put up) for only 2*l.* 10*s.* The 'Portrait of a Musician' was the head of Pepys himself, thus characteristically described in his 'Diary':—

Pepys's
picture.

"1666, March 17. To Hales's, and paid him 14*l.* for the picture and 1*l.* 5*s.* for the frame. This day I began to sit, and he will make me, I think, a very fine picture. He promises it shall be as good as my wife's, and I sit to have it full of shadows, and do almost break my neck looking over my shoulder to make the posture for him to work by."

"March 30. To Hales's, and there sat till almost quite dark upon working my gowne, which I hired to be drawn in; an Indian gowne."

"April 11. To Hales's, where there was nothing found to be done more to my picture, but the musique, which now pleases me mightily, it being painted true."

"The portrait is 'full of shadows'—the head is turned sufficiently over the shoulder—he wears his hired Indian gown—and the 'musique' which he holds in his hand and which pleased him so mightily is his own song of 'Beauty, retire.' The notes are painted true, and the words 'Beauty, retire' are written at the head.

The picture is in capital condition, and deserves to be engraved."

Mr. George Scharf kindly supplies the following information in reference to these portraits:—"The so-called 'Musician,' which is Pepys himself, holding a piece of music, 'Beauty, retire,' was bought in 1848 by Peter Cunningham, and sold by him to the National Portrait Gallery. 'Pepys,' by Sir G. Kneller (engraved), is still in the possession of Andrew Pepys Cockerell, of Hertford Street, Mayfair; so likewise the 'King James II.,' for which the king was sitting to oblige his friend Pepys. A good little picture of Pepys with a lute belonged to C. R. Cockerell the architect, R.A."

On the 24th of June mention is made of Mr. Emerson's three lectures at Exeter Hall in aid of the early closing movement, "a movement peculiarly marked with the character of the times,—one of whose grand distinctions it is to have at length recognized the general and unprerogated man as something more than a mere machine out of which it is social economy to get all possible working power.....The day of monopolies is passing away. The franchise of thought is made universal:—and the Early-closing Association purposes to help the busy population of the metropolis to the means of exercising it. For their objects Mr. Emerson

The early closing movement : Emerson's lectures.

lectured yesterday on 'Napoleon'; and will lecture on Wednesday next on 'Domestic Life,' and on Saturday on 'Shakspeare,'—a daring thinker even in the day of privilege."

Proposed
Institute of
Actuaries.

On the 22nd of July the following advice is given in reference to the proposed Institute of Actuaries: "Looking at the science of which an actuary practises the application—and which, though at present it principally relates to *life* contingencies, yet must be held to include all *contingencies* to which calculation of probability can be applied—we should see every room to welcome the formation of a society which should take its place among those already established for the promotion of geology, astronomy, geography, statistics, &c. Such a Society should be as republican in its constitution and as liberal in its principles as those which have preceded it. No man should have any rank except what he makes for himself out of the opinion of his comrades: no class of privileged members should exist."

Liverpool
School of
Chemistry
established.

In the same number congratulations are offered upon the establishment of a School of Chemistry at Liverpool under the superintendence of Dr. Muspratt. "The spread of such institutions is a wholesome educational sign—and we hope ere long to see a school for analytical instruction founded in every great town in

the kingdom. That in a country like ours this should not long since have been the case, is one of the abundant instances, now coming to the light of improved views in the matter of education, of the manner in which the national resources have been wasted. Chemistry must in future be part of all liberal—as it should be of nearly all operative—education. All the substances with which the workman deals and all the manufactures in which he is engaged contain important secrets to be yielded up to the practical chemist.....Why have not great towns like Manchester universities of their own—where practical rather than speculative knowledge may be taught—the lore of the Future may replace the lore of the Past, which has so long been held as the proper object of education—and the means may be elementarily inculcated of developing the great industrial resources of a country where population is pressing on them in a yearly increasing ratio?"

Chemistry a necessary part of education.

University suggested for Manchester.

The Government is taken seriously to task for not including in the Health of Towns Bill the cities of London and Westminster, and the rest of the metropolis. At Constantinople, in Wallachia, at Moscow, and at St. Petersburg cholera, that "fearful scourge of sanitary sins," was then raging, and slowly, but certainly, it was tending to the West. "London—the city of two millions

London and Westminster not included in the Health of Towns Bill.

Threatened
visitation of
cholera.

of inhabitants—is, it would seem, to be given up to the Avenger! It is declared by municipal wisdom to be already sufficiently clean, well drained, and salubrious! To combat assertions like this in the face of the evidence would be as idle as it is to make them. Let any man walk through Westminster under the shade of its Abbey even, St. Giles's, St. Olave's, Bethnal Green, and Lambeth—and then pronounce whether London be in a condition to receive the visits of a species of cholera so malignant as that which is now ravaging Russia, Turkey, and the Danubian States—and feeds on foul scents and vapours?.....We know by experience how ill measures of precaution can be taken when the enemy is on our hearths. The work should be done *now* :—six months hence it may be in a great degree too late.”

Drayton's
patent for
silvering
glass.

On the 5th of August is announced “a new, easy, and, we believe, cheap process of silvering glass,” patented by Mr. Drayton, to “entirely do away with the old, injurious, and dilatory process of silvering by mercury and tin,” the silvering being richer in texture than that produced by the old process, and it might be touched with the finger and still left untarnished. “This important improvement is produced by a solution of nitrate of silver in water and spirit mixed with ammonia and the oils of cassia and of

cloves. Some of the glass thus silvered is extremely beautiful."

On the 12th of August satisfaction is expressed that the College of Preceptors is making "noiseless but solid progress." "The institution has recently held its fifth half-yearly examination for the purpose of granting diplomas—or, as they must be called until the College shall obtain its charter, certificates. The attempt to elevate the scholastic profession in the social scale *from within*,—that is, by developing higher capacities in the teacher and laying the claim for social consideration on the ground of intellectual advancement,—is wise and reasonable. Considered in regard to the public importance of their several functions, there is nothing to justify the inequality of social *status* held in this country by the members of the scholastic, the legal, and the medical guilds. If any preference ought to be assigned in the order of nature, solid reasons could be given in favour of the first.....Certainly the scholastic ought to be a *learned* profession—and to take rank as such. Next to literature, it requires the best developed and disciplined powers, mental and moral, for its successful pursuit: but in an age in which the claims of literature are overlooked, it is not out of character to find the schoolmaster fallen into contempt."

The College
of
Preceptors.

The scholas-
tic should
be a learned
profession.

Peace Con-
gress at
Brussels.

The
arbitration
clause in
treaties.

War only an
occasional
necessity.

Death of
John Hunt.

On Wednesday, the 20th of September, the first meeting of the Peace Congress was held at Brussels. Upwards of one hundred names were attached to the circular of invitation, including those of Elihu Burritt and Edmund Fry. The three practical points brought forward were the introduction of an arbitration clause in all international treaties; the establishment of a High Court of Nations for the settlement of international disputes; and the general disarmament of nations. The *Athenæum* on the 23rd of September, in reference to this meeting, remarks: "The Peace apostle has this advantage in our advanced day—that though he may be neglected he cannot be answered. War is no longer defended as the interest of nations—but only as their occasional necessity.....The labours of this society are not so Quixotic, nor is the notion of this Congress so Utopian, as they seem. The 'windmills' which have so long ground down the world at the breath of every ambitious despot's caprice, *may* be overthrown by the help of the knight-errant; and the state of European arbitration which would have seemed a visionary's dream to the rough spirits of the chivalric age is the natural aspiration and tendency of the philosophic time."

On September 30th record is made of the death of John Hunt, the brother of Leigh Hunt,

and a lengthy extract is given from the notice of him which had appeared in the *Examiner*. The paper had long since passed out of the hands of the Hunts, so that it was free from partiality. The article notes: "In moral character he was a man of a rare stamp; an honest man never breathed. His devotion to truth and justice had no bounds; there was no peril, no suffering that he was not ready to encounter for either. With resolution and fortitude not to be surpassed, he was one of the justest and kindest of beings. His own sufferings were the only sufferings to which he could be indifferent. His part as a reformer in the worst times was unflinching, and he held his course undauntedly when bold truths were visited with the penalties of the prison, which he knew how to face and how to endure. His way through the world was a rough one, but his constancy was even, and tribulations left him unshaken.....John Hunt never put forth a claim of any kind on the world. He had fought the battle in the front rank when the battle was the hottest; but he passed into retirement in the very hour of victory; as if he had done nothing, and deserved nothing of the triumphant cause."

His devotion to truth and justice.

His part as a reformer.

His modesty.

On the 28th of October attention is called to a valuable series of articles then appearing in the *Daily News* on 'The Great Prisons of London.'

The great prisons of London.

The *Athenæum* states:—"Some of the revelations made are startling; and prove that, with all our reforms and improvements in the theory and *model* practice of penal science, the English prison is still the same theatre of moral and mental corruption as in the days of Howard. Let any man read the accounts of Giltspur Street, Compter, Newgate, the Bridewell, Horse-monger Lane Gaol—and then ask himself if these things should be suffered to continue longer. It is a notorious fact to students of Penology. Penology (as Prof. Lieber proposes to call the newly-created science of prison treatment) that the City of London gaols are about the most abominable in Europe. And this fact, so disgraceful to a corporation which is one of the wealthiest and most powerful in the world, we are desirous of assisting our contemporary to make universally known. If the dictates of humanity will not induce the magistracy of the capital of England to improve their prisons,—their fears, their purses, and their sense of shame may be appealed to with some probability of success. By continuing such places as Newgate and its grim neighbour of Giltspur Street, they are not only throwing temptation and the means of corruption in the way of the weak and falling, but are likewise sowing the seeds of future expenses in such a way that

they cannot fail to produce a plenteous crop.As a matter of principle, we prefer a system which will deal with the pariah before he is committed to his guilty career ; but it is absurd as well as wicked to place him in a school of vice by way of strengthening his virtues. Surely something will be done by the magnates of the City to redeem themselves from this disgrace. Meantime our contemporary is doing good-service, as we have said, by its exposures of the London prisons."

CHAPTER VI.

THE ATHENÆUM, 1849.

1849.
Application
of science
to
economic
purposes.

THE years 1848 and 1849 were remarkable for experiments and discoveries relating to the application of science to the economic purposes of life, and the *Athenæum* devoted considerable space to their discussion, many of the discoveries proving to be of permanent value. Among the subjects thus mentioned were the application of electro-magnetism as a motive power, the use of chloroform in driving engines, and some experiments as to the use of water in what was described as the "spheroidal" state.

The electric
light.

Note is also made of the progress in electric lighting. M. Archreau had some years previously illuminated the streets of Paris by electricity, but the apparatus had been found too costly and troublesome. A new method, the invention of Mr. Staite, now promised to overcome these difficulties.

The number for January 13th, 1849, gives a long account of the telegraphic experiments recently made at Folkestone, promising in their results

“to furnish us with the means of uniting by a subtle bond our island with the Continent.” The experiments were made under the direction of Mr. Walker, the superintendent of the South-Eastern Company’s telegraphic system, and on board the Princess Clementine, one of the company’s fleet of steamers. “Upwards of two miles of wire were carried out in a small boat, and submerged in the sea along the mouth of the harbour and at the side of the pier. One end of the wire was connected with a telegraphic instrument on the deck of the steamer, and the other end with the telegraph wire communicating with London.....Messages were sent by Mr. Walker to the chairman of the South-Eastern Company (Mr. Macgregor) to apprise him that the experiment was entirely successful. These messages passed through the couple of miles of wire ‘payed out’ at sea and in the harbour. A continued correspondence was then kept up between the Princess Clementine and the stations of London, Ashford, and Tunbridge, which was continued with the most perfect success at intervals of three or four hours,—messages being interchanged between the steamer and all those stations. The bells at the electric telegraph offices at Tunbridge and London Bridge were vigorously rung by the instrument on board the Princess Clementine, and no

Telegraphic
communica-
tion with
France :
experiments
at
Folkestone.

greater difficulty was experienced in making the signals with the submarine wire than with the ordinary wires on land. The wire employed was of the total length of 3,600 yards.....The size of the wire used is No. 16 copper wire,—and its thickness, when covered with gutta percha, is nearly a quarter of an inch in diameter.....The insulation by the gutta percha is no doubt most perfect. The experiments of Faraday have shown that it is one of the most perfect electrical insulations with which we are acquainted.”

Nineveh :
Layard's
discoveries.

The number for January 13th also contains the first of three long articles on Layard's ‘Nineveh and its Remains.’ The review states : “The public at large and the antiquarian world owe much gratitude to Mr. Layard for these important volumes. Estimating as highly as we do the value of this gentleman's researches, we have hitherto neglected no opportunity of referring to the progress of his discoveries,—and have minutely described the various remains which have from time to time been forwarded to England as the result of his labours. This, however, is the first detailed account of his proceedings which has emanated from Mr. Layard himself ; and none can peruse it without admiring the bold and enterprising spirit which he has displayed, as well as the indomitable

perseverance, intelligence, and tact with which he has pursued his object. It is rarely that a traveller has such a field to explore—ground so momentous to the student of the history of remote ages. The great and essential value of Mr. Layard's narrative is its straightforward simplicity—the writer's earnest consciousness that the importance of his work was such as to require no adventitious adornment. He has never once attempted to exalt himself at the expense of his subject-matter. His narration bears on its face the impress of honesty;—and the general development of his proceedings, from his first visit to Mesopotamia and the mounds of Nineveh in 1840 till his subsequent exploring expeditions—from his first experiment till his ultimate successful excavations—arouses our curiosity and secures our attention without interruption from beginning to end." The article continues: "Irritating as were the impediments offered by the semi-barbarous authorities in the East, they were as nothing in comparison to the disheartening coldness of the authorities at home. We have often adverted to and lamented this supineness in the English Government, which leaves to the generosity of individuals what ought to be the duty of the nation. The present is a strong case in point. It is to Sir Stratford Canning—to

Supineness
of the
English
Govern-
ment:
liberality of
Sir Stratford
Canning.

whom we already owed the marbles from Hali-carnassus—that we are likewise mainly indebted for the collection of Assyrian antiquities with which the British Museum will be enriched ; as without his liberality and public spirit the treasures of Nimroud would have been reserved for the enterprise of those who have appreciated the value and importance of the discoveries at Khorsabad.” The third article on the 27th of January thus concludes : “ We have rarely read a work at once so entertaining and so instructive ; or one which, while full of enthusiasm, is so entirely unaffected, clear and vigorous in style.”

Bookselling
at railway
stations :
Mr. W. H.
Smith.

On January 27th a note is also made of the innovation in bookselling by the farming of the bookstalls of the North-Western Railway by Mr. Smith, of the Strand. This was engaging a good deal of attention in literary circles. It was thought that these new shops for books would seriously injure many of the country booksellers, and remove at the same time a portion of the business transacted by London tradesmen, as people would purchase books at the railway stations in the districts where they resided, instead of waiting until the local bookseller could get his usual monthly parcel from “ the Row.” The *Athenæum* remarks : “ It is quite possible to conceive such a final extension of this principle that the retail trade in books may end in a great

monopoly"; and jokingly adds: "Nay, instead of seeing the *imprimatur* of the Row or of Albemarle Street upon a book, the great recommendation hereafter may be 'Euston Square,' 'Paddington,' 'The Nine Elms,' or even 'Shoreditch.' Stokers may become authors in the intervals of business—and electric wires touched by the fingers of genius may print a canto or a history at every station.....Whatever may be the effect to the present race of booksellers of this change in their business—it is probable that this new mart for books will raise the profits of authors.....Already it is found that the sale at these places is not confined to cheap or even ephemeral publications;—that it is not the novel or light work alone that is asked for and bought."

How fully this anticipation was realized is shown by an essay which appeared in the *Times* on Saturday, August 9th, 1851, on the "Literature of the Rail." It records that "when the present proprietor of the Euston Square bookshop acquired the sole right of selling books and newspapers on the London and North-Western Railway, he found at the various stations on the line a miscellaneous collection of publications of the lowest possible character, and vendors equally miscellaneous and irresponsible. The keepers of the bookstalls, in fact, were without credit, without means, without education, with-

The first
bookstall
keepers.

out information. They bought cheaply to sell at a large profit, and the more despicable their commodities the greater their gains. At one fell swoop the injurious nest was removed. At first the result was most discouraging. An evident check had been given to demand; but as the new proprietor was gradually able to obtain the assistance of young men who had been educated as booksellers, and as public attention was drawn to the improvement in the character of the books exposed for sale, the returns perceptively improved, and have maintained a steady progressive increase greatly in excess of the proportion to be expected from the increase of travelling up to the present time. Every new book of interest as it appeared was furnished to the stalls, from Macaulay's 'England' down to Murray's 'Colonial Library.'..... 'Macaulay' sold rapidly, 'Layard' not less so.Moore's Songs and Ballads, published at 5s. each, Tennyson's works, and especially 'In Memoriam,' have gone off eagerly.....A pamphlet, a new book written by a person of eminence, on a subject of immediate interest, goes off like wildfire at the rail. The Bishop of Exeter's pamphlet on Baptismal Regeneration, and Baptist Noel's book on the Church, had an unlimited sale at Euston Square while excitement on these questions lasted.....Weale's series

The books
in demand.

of practical scientific works.....have been and continue to be very generally purchased by the mechanics, engine drivers, and others employed upon the line. Stations were found to have their idiosyncrasies. Yorkshire is not partial to poetry, and it was difficult to sell a valuable book at any of the stands between Derby, Leeds, and Manchester. Religious books hardly find a purchaser at Liverpool, while at Manchester, at the other end of the line, they are in high demand."

On the 3rd of February reference is made to the project of Capt. Huish, of the London and North-Western Railway, for making the stations circulating libraries and the carriages reading rooms: "Mr. Huish's scheme is a graft upon the undertaking of the Messrs. Smith. These several circulating libraries are to be the integral parts of one great establishment, and the passenger is to have the power of selecting a book at any stall, paying the price thereof, and after travelling any distance on the railway (where his journey terminates), delivering it at the station, and receiving back the value less a trifle for a perusal." Messrs. Marshall & Sons, who had the contract for the Great Western, opened a library of 1,000 volumes at the Paddington Terminus. Among other novel features, every passenger had, for the charge of

Capt. Huish's
project for
making the
stations
circulating
libraries.

one penny, free access to and use of the library while waiting for the trains.*

On February 17th the leader in the *Athenæum* is devoted to a review of recent books having reference to the finding of gold in California.

Gold
discovered in
California
by Marshall.

The first of the group is 'Four Months among the Gold-finders in Alta-California; being the Diary of an Expedition from San Francisco to the Gold Districts.' The author of this work, Dr. Brooks, had a letter of introduction to Capt. Sutter, of Sutter's Fort — a block of buildings standing on a low hill near the junction of the Rio los Americanos and the Sacramento. It was upon his property that the discovery of gold was made, and the captain thus relates the story of stories to Dr. Brooks:—

Capt. Sutter's
account of
the discovery.

"I was sitting one afternoon, just after my siesta, ... when I was interrupted by Mr. Marshall...bursting hurriedly into the room. From the unusual agitation in his manner, I imagined that something serious had occurred, and, as we involuntarily do in this part of the world, I at once glanced to see if my rifle was in its proper place. You should know that the mere appearance of Mr. Marshall at that moment in the Fort was quite enough to surprise me, as he had but two days before left the place to make some alterations in a mill for sawing pine planks which he had just run up for me some miles

* The number of railway bookstalls at which Messrs. W. H. Smith & Sons at the present date, December 5th, 1885, take advertisements is 431.

higher up the Americanos. When he had recovered himself a little, he told me that, however great my surprise might be at his unexpected reappearance, it would be much greater when I heard the intelligence he had come to bring me. 'Intelligence,' he added, 'which, if properly profited by, would put both of us in possession of unheard-of wealth—millions and millions of dollars, in fact.' I frankly own, when I heard this, that I thought something had touched Marshall's brain, when suddenly all my misgivings were put an end to by his flinging on the table a handful of scales of pure virgin gold. I was fairly thunderstruck, and asked him to explain what all this meant, when he went on to say that, according to my instructions, he had thrown the mill-wheel out of gear, to let the whole body of the water in the dam find a passage through the tail-race, which was previously too narrow to allow the water to run off in sufficient quantity, whereby the wheel was prevented from efficiently performing its work. By this alteration the narrow channel was considerably enlarged, and a mass of sand and gravel carried off by the force of the torrent. Early in the morning after this took place he (Mr. Marshall) was walking along the left bank of the stream, when he perceived something which he at first took for a piece of opal—a clear transparent stone, very common here—glittering on one of the spots laid bare by the sudden crumbling away of the bank. He paid no attention to this; but while he was giving directions to the workmen, having observed several similar glittering fragments, his curiosity was so far excited that he stooped down and picked one of them up. 'Do you know,' said Mr. Marshall to me, 'I positively debated within myself two or three times whether I should take the trouble to bend my back to pick up one of the pieces, and had decided

on not doing so, when, further on, another glittering morsel caught my eye—the largest of the pieces now before you. I condescended to pick it up, and to my astonishment found that it was a thin scale of what appears to be pure gold.’ He then gathered some twenty or thirty similar pieces, which on examination convinced him that his suppositions were right. His first impression was, that this gold had been lost or buried there by some early Indian tribe—perhaps some of those mysterious inhabitants of the West of whom we have no account, but who dwelt on this continent centuries ago, and built those cities and temples, the ruins of which are scattered about these solitary wilds. On proceeding, however, to examine the neighbouring soil, he discovered that it was more or less auriferous. This at once decided him. He mounted his horse, and rode down to me as fast as it would carry him with the news.”

The *Athenæum*, in commenting upon the discovery, remarks: “If any considerable portion of the wild tales that travel eastward, reversing the course of old romance, prove to be founded on facts—and the evidence is now so various, minute, and authoritative that little room is left for even cautious scepticism—this gold-finding will be unquestionably the great revolution of the year of revolutions. If the gold turn out as plentiful as just now it promises to be, the results to the commerce, way of life, and enterprise of Europe are likely to be as great as those arising from the first discovery of America—when Spain imported into Europe upwards of

ten millions of the precious metals annually. So far as the general interests of mankind are concerned, America is now discovered, as it were, a second time. The great mystery is solved—the Dorado is found: not on the Amazon, where it was sought by the early adventurers, but on the Sacramento. — Mr. Marshall may claim to divide the honours with Columbus.”

The Dorado
found on the
Sacramento.

Mr. Cobden's scheme of a Congress of Nations continued to find earnest support, and the same number (February 17th) records the holding of large and enthusiastic peace meetings at Sunderland, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Stockton-on-Tees, &c. Reference is then made to the “monster visit” to Paris, to take place in the ensuing summer, in return for the visit to this country of the various corps of the Garde Nationale. The article remarks: “If the citizens of two countries take pains to know each other, and cement their friendship by an interchange of courtesies, the Governments may quarrel as they will:—there will be no wars. He was a shrewd politician who said, ‘The more intercourse between the citizens of foreign nations and the less between their governors the better.’”

Cobden's
scheme of a
Congress of
Nations.

During the year 1849 the search for Sir John Franklin continues. On February 17th it is

Search for
Sir John
Franklin.

stated that Lady Franklin had undertaken a journey to Hull, for the purpose of interesting the owners and captains of whalers in the search for the *Erebus* and *Terror*. She met from all connected with the whale ships the sympathy which her sorrow deserved ; and on the 24th it is announced: "Lady Franklin has returned to town :—not having, as we supposed, found it necessary to extend her efforts by a personal visit to the more northern ports. Her proposition met with the greatest attention from the whaling authorities ; and no means within the command of the whalers will be neglected for seeking and affording relief to the missing Expedition. With the view of yet further animating the crews, Lady Franklin has increased the reward of 2,000*l.*,* which she originally offered, to 3,000*l.* We should be glad to see a similar sum offered on the part of Government ; for we cannot conceal from ourselves the melancholy truth that, should the last Expedition remain unsuccoured at the close of the approaching summer, all human resources will be valueless in 1850.—Why should not some one or more of our gallant yachtmen embark in the worthy enterprise of endeavouring to find Franklin ? How far more noble such an object

Lady
Franklin
increases her
reward to
3,000*l.*

* See *ante*, p. 113.

and adventure than the mere sailing for show or pleasure upon sunny seas!"

On the 24th of March attention is drawn to the fact that "in the month of May next the Arctic Expedition will have been absent four years"; and that "it is important to bear in mind, as we have already said, that unless relieved this year future exertions will in all human probability be of no avail. For with every possible care and contrivance, the provisions cannot be made to last longer than the close of the present summer; and we have authority for saying that no dependence is to be placed on the very few Arctic animals which are found in high latitudes for a supply of food." The article continues: "The greatest length of time during which the Arctic Ocean is sufficiently open for the navigation of heavy ships, is six weeks;—a period so brief as only to permit a very small tract to be explored. Till every inch of coast has been searched, it cannot be said that all has been done for the relief of our gallant countryman which might. It is manifest, therefore, that in order to make the Arctic summer thoroughly available, the number of exploring ships must be multiplied. This, it is presumed, can be best effected by offering a very large reward. It may not be generally known that the United States possess a fleet of

The Arctic
Expedition
absent four
years.

upwards of six hundred whalers,—whilst ours has dwindled down to about a score. The former are commanded by experienced men—ardent and adventurous; as a proof of which we may mention that one commander sailed his ship last year through Behring's Straits as far as Icy Cape in search of whales.....We take this oppor-

Baron Brunow's interest in the fate of Franklin.

tunity to record that Baron Brunow, the excellent representative of the Russian government in this country, is so deeply interested in the fate of the Arctic Expedition that he has prayed his government to send out exploring boat parties from the Asiatic side of Behring's Straits;—which proposal will be carried into execution this summer."

Government reward of 20,000*l.*

On the 31st of March the *Athenæum* announces that the Government has offered a reward of 20,000*l.* for the relief of the missing Arctic Expedition, and expresses great regret "that this offer of a reward has been made at so late a period," as a letter received from one of the principal whale-ship owners of Hull stated that all the whalers had sailed, so that "there is but little hope of the intelligence reaching them before they clear the Orkneys." On the 18th of

Lady Franklin's memorial to the Emperor of Russia.

August appears a notice that Lady Franklin had addressed "a memorial to the Emperor of Russia, in which she stated that there is some possibility that the Expedition which sailed four

years ago from England for the discovery of the north-west passage, under the command of her husband Sir John Franklin, has been thrown on the coast of Siberia or that of Nova Zembla. His Imperial Majesty has resolved to fit out an Expedition to make a strict search on these distant shores." The year ends as sadly as that of 1848, and the number for November 10th announces the return home of Sir James Ross, "after an unsuccessful search for the long missing Arctic voyagers."

The
Emperor
orders an
expedition.

Sir James
Ross returns
unsuccessful.

The number for February 24th records that while Mr. Blunt, under the auspices of the Lords of the Admiralty, is preparing to carry his submarine electric telegraph from Holyhead to Dublin, propositions have been laid before the Senate of the United States to establish telegraphic communication across the Atlantic to Europe, to form a similar line across the American continent, and to construct railways from the lakes of Michigan to the Pacific.

Proposed
Atlantic
cable.

On March 10th further particulars are given as to the proposed cable through the Atlantic Ocean. It was suggested that it should be laid from the coast of Newfoundland to the nearest cape of Ireland. "The projectors say, there is reason to believe that a sub-marine bank of table land extends from Newfoundland to the capes of the British Channel; and they ask an appro-

priation and the use of a public vessel, with the necessary appurtenances, for testing the correctness of this theory. They intimate that if they can get soundings, they have only to anchor buoys for stations ten miles apart, and to support the wires between in cork tubes. And even if they do not find soundings, they could still manage to anchor the buoys by means of buckets, &c. The distance between the nearest points of land, they say, is only nineteen hundred miles. The petitioners close with an exhortation to Congress 'not to allow the British Government to anticipate the United States in this sublime project.' The *New York Evening Post* remarks as a consequence of the daily marvels amid which we live, that the Senate received this proposition without surprise—and adds its opinion that if a line had been proposed to the moon the project would have had a serious and respectful hearing."

Printers'
Pension
Corporation:
Prince
Albert be-
comes Pre-
sident.

The number for March 17th announces that Prince Albert has sent a donation of 25*l.* to the Printers' Pension Corporation, and consented to become President. The same number also records the completion of a testimonial to the Rev. Dr. Duncan, the founder of savings banks in Scotland, "by the erection of a new house for the Parish Bank in the town of Dumfries—to which has been given the title of 'The Duncan

Monument.'” On the same date a note is made from the French papers that an American printer of the name of Moreton had recently died in Paris, “bequeathing 40,000*l.* for a premium to any one who shall construct a machine capable of striking off 10,000 copies of a newspaper in an hour.”

Moreton be-
queaths
40,000*l.*
for a new
printing
machine.

The return moved for by Mr. W. Ewart, M.P., is also given, showing that the total number of volumes of printed books received, from 1814 to 1847 inclusive, under the Copyright Acts, by the Trustees of the British Museum, amounted to 55,474, and the number of parts of volumes, including music, to 80,047. The total number of volumes of printed books contained in the library of the Museum at the end of 1848 amounted to about 435,000; the number of maps, plans, and charts to 10,221; the volumes of MSS. to 29,626; the rolls of various kinds to 2,946; the number of charters and instruments to 23,772; the number of MSS. on reed and bark, and folded, to 208; the number of papyri to 55; and the number of seals and impressions to 851.*

British Mu-
seum, total
number of
volumes.

The useful weather chart which now appears in all the daily papers owes its origin to the *Daily News*. It was during the harvest of 1848

Origin of
the daily
weather
chart.

* The number of bound volumes on September 26th, 1885, was one million four hundred thousand.

that the *Daily News* published weather reports from different parts of England, communicated by telegraph. These ceased with the occasion ; but the *Athenæum* for March 31st announces : " Under the advice and with the co-operation of the Astronomer Royal, a larger project is contemplated. A good many of the railway companies have entered into the plan with zeal ; and in a short time we may hope to see daily accounts of the state of the weather as to wind and rain from upwards of fifty stations in Great Britain and Ireland." Belgium was determined not to be behind England in this useful project, and on the 21st of April it is announced that M. Quételet had communicated to the Royal Academy of Sciences of Belgium the arrangements made in England for a daily return of the prevailing winds, and stated that a series of analogous observations were already being made at Brussels, Ghent, Louvain, St. Trond, Liège, and Namur. The *Athenæum* expresses the hope that the observations will be extended to the extreme stations of Ostend, Antwerp, and Verviers, and gradually be carried on over a much larger extent of the continent of Europe.

The plan
introduced
into Belgium.

On April 14th and 21st articles appear on the Stowe Manuscripts announced to be sold by Messrs. Sotheby in June. The *Athenæum* urges the purchase of the manuscripts for the

British Museum, and understands that they can be procured for 7,000*l*. On the 28th of April it is stated that they have been bought by Lord Ashburnham for 8,000*l*. In the same number a sale of choice autograph letters is noticed, Messrs. Puttick & Simpson being the auctioneers. Seventeen original letters from Lord Nelson to Earl Spencer when First Lord of the Admiralty brought 52*l*. 6*s*. 6*d*., among them being the famous letter in which he says: "Were I to die to-morrow, want of frigates would be found stamped on my heart." The original receipt for the funeral expenses at Calais of Lord Nelson's Lady Hamilton sold for 2*l*. 8*s*. The whole expense of conducting the funeral, including the oak coffin in which she was buried, came to 28*l*. 10*s*. The *Athenæum* remarks: "So she was at least decently interred, which some have hitherto suspected not to have been the case."

The Stowe MSS. purchased by Lord Ashburnham.

Sale of letters of Lord Nelson.

On May 19th the title of "ragged schools" is again attacked, and regret expressed that Lord Ashley and his advisers persist in retaining the objectionable denomination, as it operates to deter many, who would otherwise be glad to avail themselves of the advantages of these charitable institutions, from attending them. "We know this as a fact—and feel that there is reason for it. There are in

The title "ragged school" again attacked.

London thousands poor enough to need such assistance in the education of their children who are not lost to the sense of self-respect—and many self-respecting men, however indigent, will not like to send their offspring to a professedly ‘ragged’ school. The term puts the poverty—the social degradation—of the class formally before their eyes—and labels it for all the world to read.....If the efforts of the Union should be crowned with the success which they merit—by infusing higher elements of self-respect, more moral feeling into their pupils—they will soon see the anomaly of a ragged school in which not a rag can be found!” The notice closes with a reminder that the committee still require subscriptions.

Percy
Society's
‘Satirical
Songs on
Costume.’

The *Athenæum* for May 26th contains a review of “one of the best books that the Percy Society has yet given to its members,” being ‘Satirical Songs and Poems on Costume, from the Thirteenth to the Nineteenth Century,’ edited by F. W. Fairholt, Esq., F.S.A. The selection embraces some eighty specimens from the time of Henry III. to a song ridiculing “the short-waisted gowns” worn at the commencement of the present century. Mr. Fairholt gives “several amusing pictures of the Macaronis, male and female, the ultra-fashionables of the ‘old times when George the Third was king :’—but

instead of borrowing one of these descriptions from the work before us, we will present to Mr. Fairholt and to our readers a *jeu d'esprit* of the time which has escaped his researches. It is from 'The Macaroni Jester,' and is entitled 'The Macaroni, a new song.' The date of its composition is announced in the opening verse.—

'The
Macaroni.'

In the days of King George in the year Seventy-Two
And eke in the year Seventy-Three,
Such a thing walked the streets for the Public to view
As the Public must blush but to see.

The Coat was just as long as to cover the Rump,
The Buckles fixed down to the Toe,
The Knocker behind at each step gave a Thump
On the back of the secondhand Beau.

The Sleeve of the Coat buttoned close to the Wrist,
And so tight as to swell every vein ;
Large Breeches—a Waistcoat of Silver and Twist
—A picture of Pride and of Pain.

From the Hip hangs a Sword fit to fight for a Prize,
But to use it he ne'er was in haste ;
The Hat is a mere crooked Sixpence for size,
And the Head is all Powder and Paste.

But let in few words the Description now pass,—
Few words will describe such a Fool :
The Head of a Monkey, the ears of an Ass,
And the body all Bartholmew Doll.

" Besides the poems valuable for their direct illustration of the costume and manners of by-gone times which this volume contains, Mr.

Fairholt has inserted several songs and other pieces curious for illustrating the use occasionally made of some article of dress as 'a hinge to hang a satire on.' One of the best of these is 'The Cloak's Knavery,'—a capital old song of the reign of Charles the Second satirically descriptive of the doings of the Protectorate. Of its merits the following stanzas afford a specimen.—

'The Cloak's
Knavery.'

Come, buy my new ballet,
I have 't in my wallet,
But, 'twill not, I fear, please every palate ;
Then mark what ensu'th,
I swear by my youth,
That every line in my ballet is truth :
A ballet of wit, a brave ballet of worth,
'Tis newly printed and newly come forth,
'Twas made of a Cloak that fell out with a Gown,
That cramped all the Kingdom, and crippled the Crown.

I'll tell you in brief,
A story of grief,
Which happened when Cloak was Commander in chief.
It tore Common Prayers,
Imprison'd Lord Mayors,
In one day it voted down Prelates and Players.
It made people perjured in point of obedience
And the Covenant did cutt off the Oath of Allegiance.
Then let us endeavour to pull the Cloak down
That cramped all the Kingdom, and crippled the Crown."

In the same number satisfaction is expressed
"that the excitement produced on this side of

the Channel by the revolutionary condition of Europe exhibits itself mainly in a stimulated anxiety for the reform of social abuses. All classes seem to have become newly concerned about each other. It would be difficult to find in England now the *Two Nations* which formed the subject for a popular novel only a few years ago. Persons of the highest rank are acquiring the habit of condescension.—This is a wise reading of the lesson of the times. We will not speculate too curiously on the causes or probable duration of these promising moral phenomena ; but the curious observer can scarcely have failed to notice that they received an impulse in their present direction about a year ago. The necessity of moral conductors to draw off the lightning seems to have been suggested by the lurid condition of the European atmosphere. Without seeking to depreciate the motives, we gladly accept all efforts at advancing questions of social importance, by even a few paces, towards a satisfactory solution. It is in this spirit that we notice the movement in favour of domestic servants, headed by the Prince Consort and the Prime Minister. This valuable class, like every other in the working world, has been too long neglected and too much degraded by the elect. If the efforts of the exalted personage who has made himself the orator of their claims—and

Reform of
social abuses.

The Prince
Consort.

stated their case well—should lead to making domestic servants more provident and self-respecting, good will be done which will be none the less good that it may have been suggested by an intelligent reading of German democracy or French Socialism.”

Smith's
'Dictionary
of Greek
and Roman
Biography.'

On June 9th a long article appears on 'The Dictionary of Greek and Roman Biography and Mythology,' edited by William Smith, LL.D. This work, now complete after years of labour, was intended as a companion to 'The Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities,' a work which "has effected a complete revolution in men's notions upon this subject. Much of the obscurity formerly attaching to the ancient classics has been removed; so that they are now studied in a different spirit and with greater advantage than before. We are no longer content to learn merely the meanings of words, the rules of syntax, and the laws of prosody; but begin to recognize more fully the necessity of studying the manners, customs, institutions, laws, religion, history and geography of the nations to which the classical authors belong or of which they treat,—as well as the biographies of the writers themselves and of their contemporaries.....We seek not only to make ourselves acquainted with the letter, but to enter also into the spirit of antiquity. In this way the objec-

Former
obscurity
attached to
the classics
removed.

tion that classical education consists rather in the learning of words than in the study of things is obviated.

“Of the utility of such works as this there cannot be a doubt, even supposing our object were merely to get at the meaning of the ancient Greek and Roman authors. A large amount of illustrative information is indispensable in order to gain this point. What Mr. Long observes of Thucydides, in the article on that historian, is applicable to all the ancient writers more or less:—‘for the illustration of the text a great mass of geographical and historical knowledge is necessary.’ Let any one take up a chapter of Herodotus or Thucydides, an ode of Horace, an elegy of Propertius, a satire of Juvenal, or an eclogue of Virgil, and try to understand it without such assistance,—and the impossibility of his doing so will be at once apparent. Even if the reader knew all the meanings that each word is capable of bearing, and were fully conversant with the syntax of the language, he could not succeed. Words often have peculiar meanings in particular combinations; and these meanings not unfrequently depend upon some national custom—social, political, or religious. Proper names must be a dead letter to one destitute of biographical and geographical knowledge:—just as the foreign intelligence in a

Illustrative
information
indispensable
to understand
ancient
authors.

newspaper is a mere mass of confusion to the reader who is unacquainted with the persons and places mentioned.

“Considering the indispensable character of this illustrative information, it may well seem strange that we should have so long been satisfied with the meagre, insufficient, and inaccurate works of this class hitherto in vogue among us.* The fact is, it was not till the German language began to be generally studied by our classical scholars, and the public were made acquainted by translation with the researches and speculations of Niebuhr, Bekker, Böckh, and Muller, that our deficiencies in this depart-

The
researches
of German
authors.

Dr. Schmitz, ment became manifest. Dr. Schmitz, a learned member of the University of Bonn,—whose contributions form so large and valuable a part of both these Dictionaries,—coming to reside in this country, and informing his friends here of the rich stores accumulated by his indefatigable countrymen, strengthened and extended the feeling of dissatisfaction with our Lemprières, Potters, and Adams.” Among the contributors to this dictionary “are to be found men of the highest standing in this country, both as scholars and as teachers,—together with several Germans of established reputation. Such an array of

“* It is scarcely necessary to observe that we do not here refer to Keightley’s ‘Mythology.’”

talent and scholarship is rarely to be met with." The work "will exert a lasting influence upon education in this country."

On the same date readers are informed that on the following Monday Lord Mahon will lay the foundation stone of the Printers' Almshouses to be erected at Wood Green, Tottenham—an institution "which proposes, in the words of the committee, to provide 'a refuge, in the decline of life and failure of abilities, for a class of men who are the humble instruments by which knowledge and freedom are disseminated throughout the world.'"

Lord Mahon
lays the founda-
tion stone
of the
Printers'
Almshouses.

On Tuesday, the 5th of June, intelligence was received from Paris of the death on the previous day of the Countess of Blessington. The treasures of Gore House had only been dispersed a fortnight previously,* and within a few hours

Death of
Lady
Blessington.

* Dr. Madden relates:—"It was a total smash—a crash on a grand scale of ruin.....The only person affected, be it recorded to his credit, was the author of 'Vanity Fair.' 'M. Thackeray est venu aussi,' wrote to his mistress the French valet of the countess, 'et avait les larmes aux yeux en partant. C'est peut-être la seule personne que j'aie vu réellement affectée à votre départ.' It is singular, by the way, that the first sketch in Lady Blessington's first book is entitled 'The Auction,' and gives a graphic account of the scene of ruin, and the heartless conduct of attendant friends, in language which is exactly applicable to her own domestic catastrophe of

of establishing herself in her new home Lady Blessington died suddenly of apoplexy, just twenty years after the earl, her husband, had experienced his fatal seizure, and as it were on the same spot. The *Athenæum* on the 9th pays the following tribute to her memory:—“Few departures have been attended by more regrets than will be that of this brilliant and beautiful woman in the circle to which her influences have been restricted. It is unnecessary to sum up the writings published by Lady Blessington within the last eighteen years, —commencing by her ‘Conversations with Lord Byron,’ and including her lively and natural French and Italian journals, half-a-score of novels, the most powerful among which is ‘The Victims of Society’—detached thoughts, and fugitive verses,—since these are too recent to call for enumeration. As all who knew the writer will bear us out in saying, they faintly represent her gifts and graces—her command over anecdote, her vivacity of fancy, her cordiality of manner, and her kindness of heart. They were hastily and slightly thrown off by one with whom authorship was a pursuit assumed rather than instinctive—in the intervals snatched from a life of unselfish good offices and lively social thirty years later.”—Madden’s *Literary Life and Correspondence of the Countess of Blessington*.

intercourse. From each one of the vast variety of men of all classes, all creeds, all manner of acquirements, and all colour of political opinions whom Lady Blessington delighted to draw around her, she had skill to gather the characteristic trait, the favourite object of interest, with a fineness of appreciation to be exceeded only by the retentiveness of her memory. Thus, until a long series of family bereavements and the pressure of uncertain health had somewhat dimmed the gaiety of her spirits, her conversation had a variety of reminiscence, a felicity of *apropos*, and a fascination of which her writings offer faint traces. In one respect, moreover, her talk did not resemble the talk of other *beaux esprits*. With the eagerness of a child, she could amuse and persuade herself as entirely as she amused and persuaded others. Among all the brilliant women we have known, she was one of the most earnest—earnest in defence of the absent, in protection of the unpopular, in advocacy of the unknown: and many are those who can tell how generously and actively Lady Blessington availed herself of her widely-extended connexions throughout the world to further their success or to promote their pleasures. In her own family she was warmly beloved as an indefatigable friend and eagerly resorted to as

an unwearied counsellor. How largely she was trusted by some of the most distinguished men of the time, her extensive and varied correspondence will show, should it ever be given to the world.—Into the causes which limited her gifts and graces within a narrower sphere than they might otherwise have commanded, we have no commission to enter."

The
Zoological
Society's
Gardens.

Three or four years previously the condition of the Zoological Society's Gardens did not promise well for the future of the Society. The animals diminished, and the gardens were losing favour with the public. On the 16th of June, however, the *Athenæum* reports a great improvement. The grounds had been enlarged, the number of animals increased, and as a natural result visitors once more found their way to the Regent's Park. In 1847 the collection of animals numbered little more than 800 specimens; "at the present moment it contains considerably above 1,300."* The *Athenæum* urges the Society not to stop at what has been done. "This beautiful collection, both living and dead, would serve for more permanent instruction than can be obtained from a hasty glance; and we are sure any outlay for securing courses of lectures in the Gardens

* The number of animals on the 8th of October, 1885, was 2,501.

from competent persons on the various branches of zoology would be more than compensated by the attendance of a larger number of visitors. We have advocated the same arrangement at our great national collections in the British Museum and at Kew; and we should rejoice to see the Zoological Society doing itself the honour of taking the initiative in this important matter."

Courses of lectures suggested.

Peter Cunningham's 'Handbook for London, Past and Present,' is reviewed in the numbers of June 23rd and 30th. Mr. Cunningham mentions in his preface that this work was "seven years in hand," and the article states:—"Considering the quantity and novelty of the information which it contains, we can well believe him. Mr. Cunningham's industry must have been unwearied,—and he has shown judgment in the selection and use of his materials.Mr. Cunningham's work...will remain a lasting record of the past and present condition of our huge metropolis."

Peter Cunningham's 'Handbook for London.'

This year the gardens of the Royal Botanic Society were sufficiently advanced in cultivation to be rendered of direct service to the scientific botanist, and the Council decided to invite gentlemen of known botanical acquirements to hold a *conversazione* occasionally in the conservatory, being convinced that much benefit would be received from the suggestions thrown

Gardens of the Royal Botanic Society.

out at these friendly meetings, "and that the progress of their labours towards maturity may by such aid be greatly hastened and rendered suitable to the wants of the metropolis to which the gardens are so closely attached." The *Athenæum* of July 14th announces that the first of these meetings had taken place on the previous Monday.

Spread of
archæo-
logical
institutions.

The same number also notes the spread of archæological institutions throughout the different counties of England, and announces the formation of one in Somersetshire, the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society.

The Emperor
limits the
number of
students in
the Russian
universities.

The issue by the Emperor of Russia of a decree limiting the number of students in any of the Russian universities to three hundred calls forth an angry remonstrance from the *Athenæum*, as at the time the University of Moscow had one thousand students and that of Dorpat six hundred and fifty, and by this decree no new student was "to be admitted into any of these universities until the number there shall have fallen below three hundred. The next generation is therefore to be dark in the mass:—and afterwards education is to be made—as in the memory of man it was considered amongst ourselves such a luxury *should*—an affair of class and privilege. The vacancies

when they occur are to be recruited first from the *nobles*—next from those destined for the profession of medicine. His Imperial Majesty has fallen back upon the wisdom of ‘the fine old English gentleman,’—only he has forgotten the new conditions of the world in which that extinct species lived. It is only in the fossil state that ‘the fine old English gentleman’ could now be kept above ground in England. No doubt his Imperial Majesty dislikes the fruits of knowledge which he has seen unnaturally *forced* in the sudden glow of the revolutionary spirit all around him,—and thinks that he can still sow the earth with dragons’ teeth, instead of such dangerous seed, at his pleasure, to yield him only armed men. We take upon ourselves the office of Zadkiel,—and prophesy. Out of the darkness which he would create around him shall come the monsters that shall devour him. They whom he dooms to be the lean kine in the matter of instruction shall eat up his fat kine. The irresistible power of knowledge which is abroad shall crush those who seek to crush it.—There is nothing that we should welcome more warmly, in the interest of his subjects, than a few more ukases in the same spirit from his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias.”

The number for July 14th likewise gives a

Prof.
Cockerell
on church
architecture.

full report of a paper read by Prof. Cockerell before the Institute of British Architects, in which "he especially drew attention to the remarkable fact, that during the last thirty years of devotional building, in which upwards of 1,400 cheap churches of England have been erected by the zeal of churchmen, not one of that learned body (as in the middle ages) has produced a critical work on style, as adapted to our Ritual, to guide architects. They have changed their 'building regulations' every five or six years, and have waived all consistency; and they seem to have been satisfied in raising 'folds' in any way for the wandering flock. The decline of the drama—that mirror in which the state even of the Arts was wont to be reflected—has not been without its effect; and it is worthy of remark, said the Professor, that when the drama has flourished, so have the sister Fine Arts, especially architecture. One of the great faults committed by architects was their allowing all logical consistency of feeling, all regularity, harmony, and conformity, enjoined by the first principles of sound sense and artistic composition, to be sacrificed to a pedantic display of our universal knowledge of historical styles and dates, and the trivial conceit of a dramatic reproduction to the very life (in the absence of the theatre itself) of the several periods they

represent. Again, we find them preferring the ornaments, the rhetoric, so to speak, to the logic which is its only just foundation. This is mere pedantry and affectation.....Nature is never illogical,—for her rhetoric is the mere appendage and the natural consequence of her use and purpose. How often do we find the young architect, fired with the beauty of the classic column and entablature, of the portico and the pediment, introducing them where their unfitness actually destroys the very beauty he is so anxious to display! It is from this false principle that we have churches on a Roman-Catholic plan adapted to a Protestant Ritual,—buttressed walls with tie-beam roofs, belfry towers without bells, and all the quackery of sedilia, piscina, &c., where they are without use or purpose. The rigid adherence to Palladian or Italian example and dimensions in designing masonic architecture, without the slightest allowance for the growth of modern scantling—the glazing of windows in Elizabethan or ‘early domestic’ buildings with quarré glass, in bits of four inches square, in preference to the splendid and cheap plates of the present day, each of which would fill a window—all this results from that mania for imitation which, far from showing progress in Art, is disgraceful retrogression. It is in earnestness of purpose

Mania for
imitation.

that we must look for what is called genius for fitness, novelty, and beauty. Genius, so called, is but the more strenuous attention to the means presented to our faculties by a closer criticism—by greater diligence in the artist—by concurrent efforts, liberality, and patronage—and, above all, by a field to work in offered by the public. Until these conditions are presented, we shall of course have imitation; that ready evasion of the most difficult and painful of all labour—the labour of thought.”

Society of
Antiquaries’
Proceedings.

On the 21st of July the completion of the first volume of the *Proceedings* of the Society of Antiquaries of London (April, 1843, to April, 1849) is recorded “with great satisfaction.” The printing of these *Proceedings* had been originated by the then director, Mr. Way, as “opening the door to a more easy and frequent communication with the members generally, and more particularly with those residing at a distance from London, by circulating among them at short intervals, and in addition to the annual half volume of the *Archæologia*, condensed abstracts of the proceedings of the Society.” The *Athenæum* suggests that in future volumes woodcut illustrations should be introduced, and that a larger number of copies should be struck off for gratuitous distribution among gentlemen resident in the country who

were known to be attached to archæological pursuits.

On the same date mention is made of the death of Horace Smith, at the age of seventy, author, conjointly with his brother James, of 'The Rejected Addresses.' "He will be more missed as a companion than as an author. He was singularly kindly and cheerful—devoted to the cause of truth and freedom,—and advocating this, whether gravely or gayly, with an earnestness and consistency in which was mingled no single drop of rancour. This is high praise for a man having wit at command, and who frequented society during the times lived through by Mr. Horace Smith."

Death of
Horace
Smith.

The *Athenæum* had always contended that "the work of reform must begin at the fire-side: and until the physical conditions are there improved, all other efforts must to a great extent be wasted." This principle, that a reform in mind and morals must be preceded by an improvement of the material condition, had been distinctly laid down and made the basis of experiment by John Howard; and in reporting the speech of Dr. Southwood Smith at a meeting of the Society for the Improvement of the Dwellings of the Labouring Classes, this truth is illustrated by cogent facts. "He had noted the condition of men on their removal from the

Improve-
ment of the
condition of
the working
classes.

abodes of filth and misery to the better class of tenements.....After a few months there was a complete change in their character and appearance—a change not confined to bodily health, but extending to their intellectual and moral condition.” In the model houses erected the mortality for the year had not been more than half of that for London generally, among the children only one-ninth, and no case of typhus fever or cholera had occurred.

Hepworth
Dixon's life
of Howard.

On the 25th of August Hepworth Dixon's life of Howard is reviewed: “The career of Howard is here minutely traced from Mr. John Worsley's school-desk to the solitary grave in the *steppe* near Cherson; and his great and noble acts are descanted upon in due order, with an enthusiastic admiration which is neither overstrained as regards the writer's feelings nor exaggerated in stating his hero's greatness. Mr. Dixon, too, seems to have amassed his materials with as much diligence as enthusiasm. For the most part he narrates graphically.” Mr. Dixon is at the same time advised that in some pages of the biography “the style errs in being superfluously ambitious or familiarly colloquial. Since future memoirs of social reformers and benefactors may be naturally expected from our author, we cannot but in all friendliness remind him that this class of subject is one which be-

yond almost any other demands a vigorous and dignified simplicity in its treatment. And we do this all the more emphatically, because as a body, our contemporary philanthropists, whether comic or serious, realist or romantic, seem on principle and with purpose to cultivate the fantastic and exuberant manner of writing—in place of repressing it—on Charles Lamb's admirable doctrine of 'being modest for a modest man.'”

On the 1st, 8th, and 15th of September long articles appear on “one of the best blue-books connected with literature that Parliament has given to the public for a very long time,” namely, the ‘Report from the Select Committee on Public Libraries,’ containing curious matter on the condition of public libraries not only in England, but on the Continent and even in America. Plans of the principal cities in Europe were given showing the number and position of the public libraries. These plans showed the two countries worst off for public libraries in the whole of Europe to be Great Britain and Holland. The *Athenæum* says: “This is easily accounted for. Our public picture galleries are about the worst in Europe—our private picture galleries the best and most numerous in the world. It is so with our libraries. No country is richer than England in private collections, both literary and scientific,

Public
Libraries
Report.

Our public
libraries
and picture
galleries
the worst
in Europe.

Richness of
our private
collections.

—and none is so poor in those which belong to the public. There is no picture gallery at all approaching the Louvre in excellence, in the whole of France. But look at the private collections in this country ;—the Bridgewater, the Grosvenor, the Queen's, Sir Robert Peel's, Mr. Hope's, Mr. Rogers's, &c. Were we, Napoleon-like, to bring together all the collections from John o' Groats to the Land's End, we should make a National Gallery of pictures not to be surpassed in any country in the world. It is much the same with our libraries. The British Museum Library stands fourth—or as we believe third—in the list of the great libraries of the world. The largest and best French collection of books is the Bibliothèque at Paris ;—but what are the other libraries of France, compared with the Bodleian, the Cambridge University Library, the Advocates' Library in Edinburgh, or our numerous College Libraries ? Then, again, our private libraries are not surpassed..... England is, therefore, not wanting in libraries :—but she is sadly wanting in libraries accessible to the public." Thus, while Paris possessed seven open public libraries, London had only four: the British Museum of 500,000 volumes ; the Sion College Library, founded in 1623 by the Vicar of St. Dunstan's, Fleet Street, containing nearly 40,000 volumes ; the library founded

in 1685 by Archbishop Tenison, consisting of 4,000 volumes; and the Red Cross Street Library, founded by Dr. Williams in 1716, containing 30,000 volumes.* There were other libraries accessible to the public, though on different terms. Among these were the London Library, and those of the London Institution, the Royal Society, the Royal Institution, the Athenæum Club, Lambeth Palace, and the several Mechanics' Institutes and coffee houses. The article states that the first circulating library in London was established in the Strand "by a bookseller of the name of Bathoe, about the year 1740:—but Allan Ramsay in Edinburgh had set the example a few years before. Now, we have private book clubs and subscription circulating libraries over the whole kingdom. Nay, we have gone even a good deal further; Warrington and Salford have each both an open public library and a museum." Reference is then made to the recommendation of the Committee that town councils should have the power to levy a small rate for the creation and support of town libraries; and the *Athenæum* commends this scheme as the most feasible of any that had yet been advanced. The Report also enforced

The first
circulating
library
in London.

* This library has lately been enriched by the gift of 2,400 volumes from the valuable library of the late Mr. George Henry Lewes.

the necessity of keeping our public libraries open in the evenings, and the propriety of lending works to persons of known reputation both as literary men and as respectable housekeepers. The *Athenæum* hesitates a little as to the last suggestion being extended to all our public libraries, and would, at any rate, except the British Museum.

Notwithstanding all warnings as to the certainty of a visitation of cholera in 1849, the authorities had maintained their usual character for sluggishness, and had allowed the day of grace to pass by, so that when the month of June came, and with it the first cases, London was quite unprepared to meet the long-dreaded foe ; and as the result of this gross neglect, from the 17th of June to the 2nd of October the number of deaths from cholera in London alone was 13,161. The portion of the metropolis most affected by the epidemic was Bermondsey. Charles Kingsley writes to his wife, October 24th, 1849, of his visit to "the cholera districts of Bermondsey": "Oh God! what I saw! people have no water to drink—hundreds of them—but the water of the common sewer which stagnated, full of.....dead fish, cats and dogs, under their windows. At the time the cholera was raging, Walsh saw them throwing untold horrors into the ditch, and then dipping

Bermondsey:
Kingsley's
visit to
the affected
districts.

out the water and drinking it!"* The *Athenæum* continued to advise as to the investigation of the disease. Experiments had been made in Paris by M. Audrand as to the absence of electricity in the atmosphere leading to the increase of epidemic diseases, especially cholera, and the *Athenæum* of June 30th contains a letter from that gentleman addressed to the President of the Academy of Paris, in which he states that "not only cholera, but perhaps also all the epidemics, which from time to time afflict humanity, are caused by the decrease of electricity."

Experiments
as to the
absence of
electricity
in the air.

This was followed, on the 1st of September, by a signed article by Prof. Hunt on "The Probable Causes in Operation to produce Pestilential Cholera." He shows that the disease takes its rise in the East, and proceeds with a considerable degree of regularity towards the West, and that the course has been sufficiently marked to cause the cholera in its Asiatic form to be regarded as mainly dependent upon some atmospheric conditions. "In all cities which have been visited by the disease, although isolated cases have presented themselves in the most salubrious parts, yet it has ever been most fatal in those localities where the atmosphere has become charged with organic

Important
letter from
Prof. Hunt.

The disease
most fatal
where the at-
mosphere has
been charged
with organic
matter.

* 'Memoirs of Charles Kingsley,' edited by his wife.

matter arising from the accumulation and decomposition of animal and vegetable substances. Our experience proves to us that there are no more insidious or more rapidly fatal poisons than those which organic chemistry has discovered : and of many of the most virulent the exact composition is yet unknown. Of the numerous chemical changes which take place during the passage of decomposing organic matter, under constantly varying conditions of light, heat, atmospheric pressure, &c., we know little. May we not, therefore, infer that malignant cholera is produced by a subtle organic poison formed under some peculiar atmospheric laws ?”

Ozone discovered by
Prof.
Schönbein.

After referring to M. Quételet having proved by careful observations that the electrical intensity of the atmosphere had been during the whole year about one-half of that observed in former years, that it had been regularly diminishing since January up to a certain period, and that it had appeared for some time stationary, Prof. Hunt continues: “To Prof. Schönbein is due the merit of having discovered the existence, in ever variable quantities, in the atmosphere of a peculiar agent of a most remarkable character, to which he gave the name of *Ozone*: which appears to be—although its composition has not been accurately deter-

mined—a peculiar volatile compound of oxygen and hydrogen.* A similar compound—perhaps the same in a liquid state—the *peroxide of hydrogen* or oxygenated water, has engaged the attention of Thénard, Pélouze, Berzelius, and several other eminent chemists. By these investigators it has been proved that this substance possesses more remarkable oxidizing powers than any other compound yet discovered. Its volatile state alone must, however, engage attention. Ozone is constantly produced in the atmosphere under every circumstance which determines either electrical or chemical changes; and its amount appears to vary in an exact ratio with the electrical intensity. We may produce it in a room by exciting an ordinary electrical machine,—when it is detected by its very peculiar smell; we obtain it during the decomposition of water by the voltaic battery in combination with the liberated oxygen; and Schönbein has proved that ozone is formed in every process of combustion.

Artificially
produced.

“The use of this agent in the atmosphere will, I think, be obvious after a very brief consideration of the conditions which prevail during the mutations of organized bodies. All living animals and vegetables are constantly throwing

Its use in
purifying the
atmosphere.

* Mr. Hunt adds, February, 1886: “It is now determined to be an *allotropic* condition of oxygen.”

off from their bodies organic matter in a condition the most fitted for recombination with the chemical elements of the air. The gaseous exhalations from all dead matter are also constantly combined with organic particles in a state of extreme division.....Thus, the atmosphere is constantly receiving exhalations from the earth and its inhabitants which, without a provision for their removal, would speedily become far more injurious to all forms of life than carbonic acid :—though to that alone we have been in the habit of too commonly attributing atmospheric deterioration.....Ozone combines with and changes in the most rapid manner all animal matters, except albumen in its fresh state. I am therefore disposed to consider it as the great natural agent employed to convert all those deleterious exhalations which the air receives into innocuous matter. An atmosphere artificially charged with ozone immediately deprives the most putrid solid or fluid bodies of all disagreeable smell,—and sulphuretted hydrogen is instantly decomposed by it. In fact, its action upon organic matter is far more energetic than that of chlorine :—and indeed the bleaching and disinfecting property attributed to chlorine appears to be due to the formation of the per-oxide of hydrogen*

Its action
upon organic
matter,

* Or ozone (R. H.).

by that agent from the water present. It has been proved that the electrical intensity of the atmosphere has during the year been diminished in a remarkable manner. As this is the great cause, ever active, in producing ozone, we might *à priori* infer a relatively diminished quantity of this chemical agent:—and experiment has proved that during the last three months an appreciable quantity of ozone could not be detected by the ordinary methods in the air of London.....Our first study should be to remove every source of decomposition as rapidly as possible from the precincts of our dwellings:—our next to watch ourselves, and by preserving an active condition of mind and body, to fortify the system against the malign influences which surround us. Subsidiary to these means,—since we know that ozone is formed in the process of combustion, and that large fires have proved again and again effectual in stopping the progress of the plague,* &c.,—bonfires, heavy discharges of artillery, and the like agents might be tried in the worst districts. Lastly,—with all deference to the opinions of the medical world, with which I have ceased for many years to be connected,—I

* This was remarkably verified at Constantinople in 1865. During the month of August there were no fewer than 50,000 deaths from cholera, but after the great fire in September the disease rapidly subsided.

Oxygenated water as a remedy. would suggest the propriety of trying *oxygenated water* as a remedial agent in Asiatic Cholera."

Prof. Hunt's important communication was followed in the next issue by a leading article reviewing nine recent works on the cholera, "a few only of the many which have been called out in anticipation and in presence of the terrible enemy against whom we are now fighting in our homes and streets.....Hundreds—nay thousands—of lives are sacrificed to a disease arising from removable causes, and scarcely a serious effort is made to arrest the wholesale destroyer. History will look back and wonder that a people and a Government amongst whom there was a clear knowledge of certain potent causes of death, and of the means for their removal, should have quietly acquiesced in the enormous sacrifice now hourly going on. We repeat, however, our hope that this sacrifice will not be without its resulting gain,—that this very excess of evil will generate good,—that the lives now lost will be the seed of a great future preservation. A new department of police should be instituted. An organization is wanted, consisting partly of intelligent medical men, having power to appoint inspectors of nuisances, and to arrest the sources of disease in its earliest stages. The preservation of life from disease is surely as much the function of civil government as the protection of life from

Preservation of life a function of the civil government.

violence or of property from fraud. Such an institution should have a general and authoritative superintendence over all works of sewage and drainage necessary for removing filth from towns—over the construction of houses—the locality of trades and occupations injurious to health—the ventilation of public buildings—the supply of water—and the removal of whatever sources of disease have up to the present time been permitted to exist.....An Order in Council should instantly put a stop to the abomination of burial within the streets of towns—the loathsome modern Mezentian practice of mixing together the living and the dead.....The Ghoul of old story fed in churchyards on the dead:—the dead in our graveyards of to-day are feeding on the living. We paid liberally for delivering the foreign slave from bondage: and the money will not be grudged that is paid for delivering our own people from death—if it be paid *in time*."

Powers
requisite.

Burials within
the streets of
towns.

Among the victims to the cholera was one of the oldest contributors to the *Athenæum*, Dr. W. Cooke Taylor, who died at Dublin on the 12th of September, and on the 15th inst. tribute is paid to his remarkable working power and the wide range of his literary knowledge. Dr. Taylor was a zealous writer in favour of free trade, and equally zealous against agitation for the repeal of the Union.

Death of
W. Cooke
Taylor.

Penny Banks
originated by
James M.
Scott.

On the 1st of September the *Athenæum* mentioned the success which had attended the establishment of a Penny Bank at Greenock, and suggested that London should follow the example: "Such a mode of helping the working classes is worth a thousand of those charities which do not contemplate the fostering of habits of *self-help* as their end and aim. How many moralities of the utmost value to the well-being of a community grow up from the seed of economic forethought sown in the breast of a people!" This notice brought much correspondence, and on the 13th of October Mr. James M. Scott, the originator of two Penny Banks—the one at Greenock and the other at Hull—states that the idea was suggested by a Penny Club at Ipswich some years ago. Mr. Scott found from actual trial that a Penny Bank with 5,000 depositors, investing an average of about 40*l.* a week, could be satisfactorily conducted at an expense of 70*l.* per annum, including the premiums offered to depositors. To meet this outlay about 60*l.* was received in the shape of interest on the money invested and from small charges made to the depositors. The remainder had to be raised by voluntary subscriptions. Up to this time Mr. Scott had only succeeded in getting 3 per cent. interest for the money placed in his hands,

but he hoped to find a mode of safe investment which would yield 4 or 4½ per cent., thus entirely covering the cost of working the bank. "Since we began to notice this matter, other banks on the same principle have been commenced, and the movement is likely to spread. The germs of much social good are in it."

At the distribution of prizes at the Society of Arts in July Prince Albert had announced that the Society hoped to be able to organize a great national exhibition of manufactures in 1851, and the *Athenæum* states "that it is contemplated that, for the first time in the annals of similar institutions, this exposition shall be not national only, but as far as possible universal, embracing the products, machinery, and manufactures of our own country, our colonies, and all nations. It is proposed to give large money prizes and medals, which shall be awarded by a tribunal so elevated above all the interests of competition as to inspire the utmost confidence. The whole undertaking is in some way to have a national sanction given to it, but the taxation of the country is not to be called upon to provide the funds."

The great
International
Exhibition
of 1851
projected.

The *Athenæum* at this time became dissatisfied with the working and management of the Literary Fund. The *Athenæum*, it will have been seen, had done all it could to aid the Society,

The Literary
Fund.

and it was now only "after long and anxious consideration" it was resolved to enter a "formal protest against the proceedings of the Committee." This was done in the number for September 8th, and a second article on the same subject appeared the following week. The Society had at that time real and funded property amounting to about 33,000*l.*, an amount which the *Athenæum* held "to be excessive as the reserve fund of a benevolent institution necessarily so limited in the number of its applicants. Persons of 'genius and learning' are not 'so plentiful as blackberries': yet the Society by its bye-laws has narrowed even the limitations of the Charter,—and declared that no person shall be entitled to relief who is not an 'author of some published *work* of approved literary merit'; and 'work' is interpreted to mean *book*. Thus the *Spectator*, the *Tatler*, or the *Rambler* would not have entitled Addison or Steele or Johnson to relief from the Literary Fund unless their several Essays had been collected and *re-published in a volume*."

Comparison is then made between the average annual cost for five years of the Artists' General Benevolent Fund and of the Literary Fund for salaries, rent, printing, stationery, postage, and petty disbursements, that of the former only being 90*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*, while that of the latter was

504*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* The long and angry discussion as to the management of the Literary Fund is too well known to allow the subject to be passed without showing the origin of the quarrel, but no further reference to it will be made in these pages.

The *Athenæum* for September 15th has the following on the subject of an ocean penny post: "When Rowland Hill first broached his idea of a penny-postage system the sages shook their heads doubtfully. Postmasters and postmistresses all protested against it,—revenue officers looked aghast,—ministers pooh-poohed it. The thing was laughed at, written down, talked down; but it was a true thing—and it made its way. The public became converts after a little investigation—and *would* have it tried. And so it triumphed,—and has become a great and successful 'fact.' As usual, the fact thus fixed has given birth to a new idea—in its turn, sooner or later, to become a realized and tangible thing. A letter travels now from the Isle of Skye to Germany for a penny: why not from London to Paris or Pekin? We see no difficulty in the way which did not present itself to the mind on the first thought of Rowland Hill's plan..... The following letter is significant of the change that is about to happen:—

An ocean
penny post
advocated.

Thomas
Bazley's letter
to Elihu
Burritt.

“ ‘ Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures,
Manchester, August 30.

“ ‘ My dear Sir,—The important question of an ocean penny postage has received my consideration, and I have arrived at the conclusion that to establish it is practicable, and would be exceedingly beneficial to the people of every country. As far as I have been able to ascertain the opinions of the directors of this chamber upon this great question, they are decidedly favourable to the establishment of so powerful an auxiliary of communication and civilization as they believe the ocean penny postage would become. Having witnessed the advantages, moral, commercial, and fiscal, of our inland penny postage, I have the greatest confidence in anticipating results not less favourable, but more universal, from an ocean penny postage system, and I shall be happy in promoting its establishment so far as I may possess power and ability.Believe, &c.

“ ‘ THOS. BAZLEY, President.

“ ‘ Elihu Burritt, Esq.’

The public will feel that it is not likely to be led astray into the paths of merely romantic speculation by the President and Members of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures. These are not the men to assert in tropes what they cannot prove in figures. They are owners of ships—and have correspondence with all corners of the earth. With their stamp on it, the scheme of ocean penny postage may be removed from the category of empirical agitations and regarded as one of those ideas which require time only to perfect them. Peace and free postage are the pet ‘impossibilities’ of the

hour. Steam and lightning conductors have had their days of denial—and of victory.”

The official authorities still hesitate to extend the privilege beyond postcards, as they fear that such a fee would involve loss to all the governments concerned. The only revival of the project recently has been amongst some of the representatives of the colonies and adherents of the Imperial Federation League, in favour of an “Imperial Penny Postage,” that is, a letter tariff of one penny per half ounce between all parts of the British Empire.

On November 10th attention is called to the fact that sixteen years have passed since a parliamentary committee had recommended that five additional sites should be enclosed and set apart for ever as parks, yet up to the present “we have got *one* new park marked on the map of London,—but the inquirer would be puzzled to find it anywhere else.....Parks for the people are another form of ‘Baths and Washhouses’ :—both are among the best discoveries of modern times.”

On the same date the starting of *Notes and Queries* is announced : “The editor exhibits a phalanx of eminent assistants ; and if he has as good success in getting answers to his queries as he has shown tact in exemplifying the kind of queries proposed, his work will

Parks for the people.

Notes and Queries
founded by
W.J. Thoms.

be of great use to a considerable class of students."

Dr. Lindley's 'Medical and Economical Botany.' On the 1st of December Dr. Lindley's services to botany are recognized in a notice of his work 'Medical and Economical Botany': "This volume lays the botanical student under another obligation to Dr. Lindley, who has done more to make botany a popular and practical science than any previous or contemporary botanist."

On the same date attention is called to a case of "great interest to readers and publishers of periodicals and newspapers. It turned upon the question of the legality of letting out stamped papers for hire. Commissioner Bullock decided, on 23 Geo. III. c. 50, that such hire is contrary to law—and that debts thereby incurred are not recoverable.* A correspondent of the *Daily News* draws attention to another act, 6 & 7 William IV. c. 76, which repeals several old statutes—amongst them, he affirms, the one on which the judgment of the Commissioner was based.—If this be not so, it is fitting that the statutory Genius of Queen Victoria be immediately summoned to aid."

Ebenezer Elliott.

Ebenezer Elliott died on the 1st of December,

* The first person fined under the Act of George III. was a stationer near Bond Street, who on the 2nd of July, 1790, was convicted in the full penalty of 5*l.* for lending out a newspaper contrary to the statute.

at his residence, Argilt Hill, near Barnsley. The number for the 8th contains an obituary notice of "the highest, most powerful, and most popular among the modern 'Poets of the People'":—"It is now eighteen years since a notice of the 'Corn Law Rhymes,' which appeared in the *Athenæum* [*vide* Nos. 189, 190, 198], together with a like panegyric in the *New Monthly Magazine*, then edited by Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, mainly assisted in bringing to light one of the most fierce, fervid and eloquent men of genius that ever entered the temple of poetical fame through the 'iron gate' of Politics. He lived to see the grievance which revealed his genius to himself and to his countrymen pass away among the sins and sorrows that have been.....If Scott be the poet of Tweed-side, and Wordsworth of the Lakes, to Elliott, assuredly, belong the heights and the dales of Yorkshire—and, yet more, its 'broad towns,' in which Manufacture is unable to destroy or efface (as puny and faithless folk would tempt us to believe) the elements of poetry that lie in the human heart, 'with all its dreams and sighs.'"

On the 15th inst., "by the kindness of a friend," the *Athenæum* was able to give "the last utterance of poor Ebenezer Elliott's extinguished Muse." The two stanzas "bear date 'Nov. 23, 1849,'—when the lamp was already burning dim. 'Desire' had almost 'failed'—and the 'daughters

His
last two
stanzas.

of music' were already 'brought low.' He had marked them as a song—to be sung to the tune of 'Tis time this heart should be unmoved.'—

'Thy notes, sweet Robin, soft as dew,
Heard soon or late are dear to me;
To music I could bid adieu,—
But not to thee.

When from my heart earth's lifeful throng
Shall pass away, no more to be,
O Autumn's primrose, Robin's song,
Return to me !'

Eight days later, the primrose was scentless and the robin silent for him.—'My father-in-law suffered much,' writes the husband of the Corn-Law Rhymer's daughter, 'till within the last few hours:—when he became insensible, and slept like an infant.'—The poet lies buried in Darfield churchyard,—which will be a place of pilgrimage to many hearts: for he spoke to the sympathies of his class with a powerful tongue."

The same number announces that "practical science has sustained a heavy loss by the death of Sir Isambard Brunel, the well-known executor of that great work of engineering skill, the Thames Tunnel."

On December 29th note is made of Mr. Murray's recent great annual trade sale at the Albion Tavern, being "the best he has had since his father's death; he disposing of books on that day to the amount of 19,000*l*. Nor will

Death of
Sir Isambard
Brunel.

Mr. Murray's
sale.

this be wondered at when the numbers sold are put together. For instance, the trade took on that occasion 2,000 of Lord Campbell's 'Chief Justices,'—5,000 volumes of 'The Colonial Library,'—1,400 of Layard's 'Nineveh,'—1,400 of Byron's Works in one volume,—1,300 copies of Mr. Borrow's new work 'Lavengro,'—900 of the new edition of Mr. Cunningham's 'Handbook for London,'—750 of Mr. Grote's 'Greece,'—750 of Mr. Curzon's 'Levant,'—and 600 of M. Guizot's new work. School books sold in still greater proportions:—5,000 Markham's 'Histories,'—4,000 'Little Arthur's History of England,'—2,000 Wordsworth's Latin Grammar,—1,200 'Somerville's Geography.'"

On the same date is recorded the death of Patrick Fraser Tytler, "author of 'The History of Scotland'—the 'Lives of Scottish Worthies'—and 'The Life of Sir Walter Raleigh'—and editor of two volumes of 'Letters,' derived from the originals in the State Paper Office, illustrative of the history of England under Edward the Sixth and Mary. Mr. Tytler was the grandson of William Tytler,

Death of
Patrick Fraser
Tytler.

Revered defender of the beauteous Stuart,—
and the grandson of Tytler Lord Woodhouselee,
author of a brief and useful Universal History.
.....He was a severe and accurate historical
student.....His 'History of Scotland,' commenc-

'History of
Scotland.'

ing with Alexander the Third and ending with the accession of James the Sixth to the throne of England, is a work of great importance:—the best book that we possess on that subject. The writer dug, like the late Sir Harris Nicolas, for new materials—and with equal success; while he had a much nicer art than Sir Harris in turning his materials to account. His style, though far from good, is never slipshod or longwinded. He tells what he has to say plainly,—perhaps baldly; but he carries his readers with him, and wins and retains their approbation to the end. His ‘Life of Raleigh’ is remarkable for the view which he starts and supports on the subject of Sir Robert Cecil’s plots connected with Raleigh’s ruin. It contains, moreover, some new materials of moment:—though it must still be said that the life of Raleigh remains to be written.”

‘Life of
Raleigh.’

Condition of
the people.

The last numbers of the year, December 22nd and 29th, contain two important articles on the condition of the people. A just tribute is rendered to the labours of Mr. Poulett Scrope, the member for Stroud, whose letters on the labouring population of the United Kingdom had appeared in the *Morning Chronicle*. The

Remedial
measures.

Athenæum considers that “remedial measures admit of a fourfold division, and may be classified as—I. Practical amendments in the exist-

ing laws and usages of the country mainly affecting property—2. Modifications of our fiscal system—3. The introduction of new methods of procedure into our attempts to diminish and to prevent pauperism—4. Radical changes in the political constitution of the country.....We may safely place first on the list of legal hindrances to be removed, the expensive and intricate form of the titles to land and to all real property.—After these are perhaps to be placed those new and extensive laws required for the efficient preservation of the public health.These laws in the end must embrace all needful powers of supervision over the construction of houses as well as over the condition of streets.—There are then, the alterations which have been so long agitated as to the tenure of farms: and sooner or later, either by positive enactment or by general agreement, the question of leases and tenant-right must receive a settlement.—The laws prescribing the relief of the poor are susceptible of many improvements..... There is every reason to believe that if a usage could be established among the owners of land of encouraging the growth of a peasant tenantry—if on leases, so much the better—an improvement of the most striking kind would be accomplished, and this quite irrespective of any compulsory introduction of peasant holdings.

Titles to
land.

Tenure of
farms.

Peasant
tenantry.

Political
changes.

.....We have nothing to say in this place of the panaceas supposed to be contained in the political changes alluded to in the fourth and last group on our list. We have placed these changes last because they are the most radical in their nature—and because, involving as they do, extreme diversities of opinion, they offer the most uncertain and perhaps the least efficacious means of meeting a difficulty which is complicated and urgent.”

CHAPTER VII.

THE ATHENÆUM, 1850.

THE new year opens with the notes of preparation for the Great Exhibition of the Works of all Nations to be held in 1851. The *Athenæum* had from the first given its earnest support to the Society of Arts in its endeavours to bring this great undertaking to a successful issue, and in the numbers for 1850 will be found a complete history of the movement in all its phases, from the announcement on the 5th of January of the nomination of the Royal Commissioners and the Executive Committee until the 14th of December, when the building was in such a forward state that it was proposed to open it at Christmas to holiday makers at a charge of 1s. But before all this had been accomplished the Commissioners and Executive had to pass through months of much anxiety, for notwithstanding the distinguished patronage the project had received and the hearty co-operation of the Lord Mayor, who had in March entertained the Prince at a banquet at which were present the

The Great
Exhibition
of 1851.

mayors of nearly every corporate town and borough of the United Kingdom, it is stated in the number for May 25th that a feeling of discouragement was produced in London when Lord Overstone announced that the subscriptions up to that time amounted only to 50,000*l*.

Paxton's
plan
adopted.

On the 26th of July Mr. Paxton's original plan was adopted with the addition of transepts. On the ground floor alone there were to be seven miles of tables. The contract signed with Messrs. Fox & Henderson was for the sum of 77,500*l*. The numbers for August 31st and September 7th give perspective and ground plans of the building, the length of which was to be 1,848 feet. The *Athenæum* suggests the addition of three feet, "that it might have symbolized in its figure the great year to which the event will give its name." This proposal was adopted, and the length of the building was increased to 1,851 feet. The Commissioners promised that during the Exhibition new inventions were to be covered as by a patent, and the *Athenæum* hoped that this temporary grace to the inventive genius of the country might lead to a great change in the patent laws, and suggested that the inventor should be protected in his property like the author and on the same easy terms. The hesitation of the Government to confirm the

promise led to the formation of a society having for its object "to achieve a legal recognition of the rights of inventors to the full and fair enjoyment of the fruits of their skill and industry." As the result of this agitation an Act protecting from piracy new inventions exhibited received the royal assent on April 11th, 1851. It is not too much to say that the persistent advocacy of the *Athenæum* was largely helpful to the success of the 1851 Exhibition.

Mr. Hepworth Dixon's work 'London Prisons' is reviewed at length on the 5th of January. A series of papers by Mr. Dixon had appeared in the *Daily News* during the previous twelve months on the chief prisons in the metropolis. These he had rewritten for the present volume, and had extended the scope of his inquiry so as to include political as well as common prisons. The *Athenæum* takes the opportunity to express its views in reference to transportation as a punishment, and considers "the main error of our transport system has not been the deportation of criminals, but the deportation of criminals to a *single* colony of small extent. If the enormous congregation of felons in Van Diemen's Land or in New South Wales had been divided among ten or twelve new settlements at various points on the continent of Australia, the results would have been very different from those which have

'London Prisons,' by Hepworth Dixon.

Transportation.

actually arisen. There would have been no undue excess of criminal population at any of the selected spots ; the forced labour of the convicts would have smoothed the path and hastened the arrival of free settlers ; and if common care had been exercised the penal gangs might always have been kept sufficiently in advance of the regular colonists to perform many of the rougher kinds of labour required by the new portions of wilderness taken into cultivation.....Amongst the greatest difficulties of prison discipline is the introduction of profitable labour of such a kind that, while it shall fully occupy the convicts, it shall not interfere with the ordinary trades of the country.....So far as the labour of criminals is substituted for the labour of honest persons in the production of such articles as are required by the departments of Government, to that extent free labour is superseded by convict labour,—and to provide labour for the convict, the wages of the honest artisan are restricted in the degree that the field for his employment is restricted. All these reasons furnish strong grounds why the labour of convicts should be employed, in all practicable instances, in precisely that sphere where it can do the most good and the least harm ; and we believe that the further the question is investigated the more obvious it will become that, for a country to send out its

Convict and
free labour.

criminals to the frontiers of its civilization, and employ them in clearing away the first asperities of the wilderness, is at once the most equitable justice to them and the most salutary course for the society whose laws they have violated."

On the 12th of January, in reviewing 'Success in Life, the Merchant,' by Mrs. Tuthill, the following suggestion is made as to books for the young: "It must be observed that one and all such books as these—from the elaborate novel 'Patronage' down to the penny version of Whittington's story proposed as model—too systematically exclude provisions for strength, hopefulness, and happiness in failure. They are excellent manuals for prosperity, but we are not satisfied that they contain due indication of the uses of adversity. It is well to preach that man is stronger than circumstance,—but we would have the strength of resigned acquiescence sometimes insisted on in the child's homily-book, as well as the strength of victorious endeavour."

Books for
the young.

In the same number appears an autobiography of Ebenezer Elliott, signed, and dated Sheffield, June 21st, 1841. It occupies eight columns, and includes some curious anecdotes of his father, "a special original." His "uncommon political sagacity" earned for him the title of "Devil Elliott." "He used to preach every fourth Sunday to persons who came from distances of

Autobio-
graphy of
Ebenezer
Elliott.

twelve and fourteen miles to hear his tremendous doctrines of ultra-Calvinism (he called himself a Berean) and hell hung round with span-long children! On other days, pointing to the aquatint pictures on the walls, he delighted to declaim on the virtues of slandered Cromwell and of Washington the rebel; or, shaking his sides with laughter, explained the glories of 'The glorious victory of His Majesty's forces over the Rebels at Bunker's Hill!' Here the reader has a key which will unlock all my future politics." The autobiography thus closes:—"Newspaper-taught as I am, and having no ideas of my own, I can only seize those of others as they occur, earnestly applying them to current occasions. If I have been mistaken in my objects I am sorry for it; but I have never advocated any cause without first trying to know the principles on which it was based. On looking back on my public conduct—thanks to that science which poor Cobbett, ever floundering, yet great and brave, called in scorn 'Poleetical Economy'—I find I have had little to unlearn. And when I shall go to my account, and the Great Questioner whose judgments err not shall say to me, 'What didst thou with the lent talent?' I can truly answer, 'Lord, it is here; and with it all that I could add to it—doing my best to make little much.'"

The autobiography is followed on the 26th of January by a long review of "More Prose and Verse. By the Corn-Law Rhymers. 2 vols. Vol. I.," and among many extracts is given the following, directed to be sung to the tune of 'Robin Adair':—

'More Prose
and Verse,'
by the
Corn-Law
Rhymers.

"When the pale worker faints,
 Making no moan,
Though his unutter'd plaints
 Rise to God's throne,
What from despair can keep
Languor too tir'd to sleep,
Sorrow too sad to weep?
 Music alone !

Milton, poor, old, and blind,
 Fated to bear
Worst woes that scourge his kind,
 Did not despair :
What, behind curtains worn,
Where his night knew no morn,
Held up his heart forlorn ?
 Music was there.

Then to the hopeless one,
 Thus, if you can,
Sing, weary wife or son,
 Wasted and wan :
'Though pain our portion be,
High is our destiny :
Born thrall of poverty,
 Still thou art Man !'"

"The plea for music in the cottage has rarely been better put—even in that famed anonymous quotation 'Verse sweetens toil,' which Johnson

loved to quote,—and the parentage of which remains unascertained to this day.”

Death of
Lord
Jeffrey.

Lord Jeffrey died on Saturday, January 26th, in his seventy-seventh year, and the number of the 2nd of February contains a long obituary notice. “Thirty years ago—or even forty—the death of Mr. Jeffrey would have been a much more important subject for comment and conversation than it is now in a ripe old age. No critic ever filled—for good or for evil—a more important position in the world of letters than Mr. Jeffrey filled uninterruptedly for seven-and-twenty years in the literature of the nineteenth century. Whenever the history of English Literature shall be written his name must always find a place: less prominent, it is true, than that which he occupied in his lifetime, but still one of distinction,—not so much from the intrinsic value of his own contributions as from the particular influence which his writings exercised on the public mind, and on the destinies, for a time, of some of our greatest poets.....At a late supper after a debate at the Speculative Society the *Edinburgh Review* was projected by [Sydney] Smith, and approved of by Jeffrey and Lord Brougham. Assistants were soon found; and in October 1802 appeared the first number of the new periodical, under the editorial care of the Rev. Sydney Smith,—its original projector,

Edinburgh
Review
founded.

as he is called by Lord Jeffrey, 'and long,' he adds, 'its brightest ornament.' The success of the new Review was beyond the expectation of its founders,—and after a few numbers beyond all precedent in publications of a similar nature. Nor is this to be wondered at when we look at the character and variety of its articles, and contrast its vigour and wit with the tame productions of any publication then at all approaching it in matter or in manner. The new Review contained the views and thoughts, most fearlessly expressed, of a young and vigorous set of thinkers, on some of the most important subjects of the day connected with politics, religion, jurisprudence and literature. The writers flew at all kinds of game:—nor was it difficult to see from the first (what was indeed obvious afterwards) that the politics of the Whig school gave a turn and colour to the whole character of the Review. 'The Review,' said Jeffrey, 'has but two legs to stand on: Literature, no doubt, is one of them—but its *right* leg is Politics.' Mr. Sydney Smith was the editor of the first three numbers; and would, no doubt, have continued his editorial care had not his views of promotion in the Church called him away from Edinburgh to London. On Mr. Smith's retirement, Mr. Jeffrey took his place; which he continued to fill without interruption till late in the

Jeffrey
becomes
editor.

year 1829, when he was elected to the office of Dean of the Faculty of Advocates.....‘Envy must own’ that he conducted the *Edinburgh Review* with admirable tact and skill,—and that he showed great judgment as to the writers whom he brought about him. He was well supported by men like Sydney Smith, Mackintosh, Brougham, Horner, Allen, and Hazlitt. His subjects were well chosen for the time, and generally maintained consistent principles both in politics and in taste ; but his great object, it should not be concealed, was to attract attention and to draw readers. We are not, however, to tax him with all the editorial errors of the *Review*. Let us remember his own apologetical defence to Sir Walter Scott, that he was ‘a feudal monarch who had but slender control over his greater barons, and really could not prevent them from occasionally waging little private wars upon griefs or resentments of their own.’

“Lord Jeffrey’s position as editor led him now and then into more than one unpleasant quarrel. Southey, Wordsworth, and Coleridge seldom spoke of him except in terms of hatred and contempt ; and his memorable duel at Chalk Farm, in 1806, with Mr. Moore, partly occasioned by a clever application of a passage in Spenser to Tom Little’s Poems, will long be

Duel with
Moore.

remembered by the 'Little's leadless pistol' of the 'English Bards and Scotch Reviewers,' and the contemporary epigram which ends

'They only fire blank cartridge in Reviews.'

The quarrels with the Lake School were never made up; but the author of Little's Poems and the editor of the *Edinburgh Review* were afterwards reconciled, and the critic even courted by a friendly dedication. The great defect in Lord Jeffrey's editorship of the *Edinburgh Review* was his short-sightedness in appreciating the merits of Scott, Byron, Southey, Wordsworth, Coleridge, and others. He praised Scott for a time,—but a cold notice of 'Marmion' threw the future novelist into the arms of the *Quarterly Review*. The criticism on the 'Hours of Idleness,' though attributed to Mr. Jeffrey at the time, was, as is well known, written by Lord Brougham. Jeffrey himself afterwards praised Byron, and the noble poet was not ungrateful to the critic.....We are now to look on Lord Jeffrey as an author:—and it is somewhat singular, we may observe, of one who has written so much, that he is not an author in any other sense than as a critic in a Review. This cannot be said of any of his leading associates, or of any of the opposition writers in the *Quarterly*,—or indeed of any other writer who has exercised one half the influence in literature

Jeffrey
as an author.

that Mr. Jeffrey possessed.....He is, therefore, His 'Essays,' to be judged by the four volumes of his 'Essays,' or contributions to the Review, which he was induced to collect and revise in the year 1843.It is much to his praise as a man, though little to his early discernment as a critic, that the bitter reviews of Southey, Coleridge, Wordsworth, and others were excluded from his 'Collected Essays'; while his eulogies on his favourite poets, Campbell, Crabbe and Rogers, were one and all admitted. He had outlived the resentment or impetuosity of youth with which they were written, as the great writers themselves had outlived the injury which their injustice had done to them; to have inserted them would therefore have only been renewing an unprofitable contest,—and connecting his name even more lastingly than it is likely to be with the great names of the writers whose hostility he both courted and incurred.

"These 'Essays,' it must be confessed—and we have just risen from a re-perusal of some of the best—are not very remarkable productions. They are little distinguished for subtlety of opinion, nicety of disquisition, or even for beauty of style. Though printed uniformly with the contributions to the same Review of Sydney Smith and Mr. Macaulay, they have not made the same impression on the public mind—nor

been read with the same avidity. So that, while the Essays of Mr. Smith and Mr. Macaulay are now in fourth editions—the public have been content till very recently with a single impression of Lord Jeffrey. Yet his ‘Essays’ will more than repay perusal. His paper on Swift is the best elucidation of the Dean’s character that we have yet received:—while his articles on Penn and the Quakers exhibit qualities of mind not easily to be found in authors of even greater celebrity. One of the last acts of Lord Jeffrey’s life was, to write a long—and, as we hear, a beautiful—letter of thanks to the widow of the Rev. Sydney Smith for the copy of Sydney Smith’s Lectures delivered at the Royal Institution and privately printed by his widow. Lord Jeffrey, it will be remembered, dedicates his ‘Essays’ to his friend Smith.”

On the 16th of February a meeting was held at Lord Brougham’s house in Grafton Street, for the purpose of aiding the Edinburgh committee in the erection of a monument to Jeffrey. Among the subscribers were the Marquis of Lansdowne and the Earl of Minto, who each gave 50*l.*; Lord Campbell, Lord John Russell, and the Right Hon. T. B. Macaulay, 20*l.* each; Lord Brougham, 30*l.*; the Dean of St. Paul’s and Charles Dickens, 5*l.* 5*s.* each; Messrs. Longmans, 100*l.*; Henry Hallam, 10*l.* 10*s.*

Monument
to him.

Society for
promoting
cremation.

On February 2nd note is made of the formation of a society having for its object the organization of means whereby corpses, instead of being buried in the usual way, may be reduced to ashes by fire, "under such new forms as the requirements of modern life and modern feelings shall prescribe. There is a sentiment in the movement,—as there is one opposed to it; but it is an argument stronger than sentiment which is operating to suggest this change of practice. The long-neglected abominations of the London burial-yards,—by whose means the grave is made to feed itself, and the legend of the vampyre is reversed—are turning men's thoughts back upon the ancient method.—The new association has issued a prospectus of its objects and its plans."

Henry
Mayhew's
papers on
the London
poor.

On the 16th of February attention is drawn in the "Miscellanea" to the "remarkable series of papers which have been for some time past appearing in the columns of the *Morning Chronicle*, in which the pen of Mr. Henry Mayhew has made one of the most striking and important contributions to the social statistics of our time that can be conceived. With a skill into which both courage and perseverance have entered as conspicuous elements, he has gone to the very root of the social sores,—and brought up a set of facts from which it is our

first impulse to turn away in hopeless pity and dismay. Our next impulse is, the strong feeling that something *must* be done,—and the comforting one that to a great extent it is possible. Rarely, that we remember, have figures been made so eloquent. The statesman and the philanthropist know from these more of the causes of crime and the means of sorrow in this busy and brilliant metropolis than ever they did before—and to know these is the first necessary step towards redressing them. The *Chronicle* and its Commissioners have done a holy work :—which has borne fruit already, and must bear more. Mr. Mayhew is a bold and determined labourer on a ground on which we have ourselves for years toiled as our opportunities have permitted.” Then follows an account of a singular meeting of 150 male juvenile thieves, “convened by the metropolitan Correspondent of the *Chronicle*.” “At first their behaviour was very noisy and disorderly, but before the close they became peaceable and even respectful in their demeanour.....The announcement that the greater number present were thieves pleased them exceedingly, and was received with ‘three rounds of applause.’” On it being stated that “one, though only nineteen years of age, had been in prison as many as twenty-nine times, the clapping of hands, the cat-calls, and

Singular
meeting of
thieves.

shouts of 'bravo,' lasted for several minutes, and the whole of the boys rose to look at the distinguished individual." The correspondent addressed and consulted the boys as to the mode of their deliverance, and concluded by saying: "'All, or nearly all your misery, I know, proceeds from the low lodging-housesand I am determined with your help to effect their utter destruction.' A voice: 'I am glad of it, sir—you are quite right; and I pray God to assist you.'"

Appeal on
behalf of
Madame
Courtois.

In the number for the 23rd of February M. Claudet appeals to English chemists and photographers to contribute to the fund being raised in France on behalf of the widow of M. Courtois, celebrated for his discovery of iodine. "Without his genius and labour," says M. Claudet, "the beautiful discoveries of the Daguerreotype and Talbotype processes would probably never have been made:—for iodine is their fundamental principle." The object proposed was to procure admission for Madame Courtois into the "Hospice des Ménages," for which the very modest sum of 1,500 francs was required.

Prison
discipline.

On the 9th and 16th of March prison discipline forms the subject of two long articles. Lord John Russell had moved the appointment of a new committee of inquiry, and the whole question of prison law and criminal treatment was again

before the public for discussion. " Amongst the many great problems which agitate and exercise the intelligence of the nineteenth century and press most unceasingly for solution, those of the ultimate causes and *rationale* of crime and of the relation of the criminal to society occupy a prominent position. Before the inquisitorial spirit of the present age was evoked, our penal science was extremely simple:—to seize the offender and administer the vengeance of the outraged law by hanging, transportation, or imprisonment, after the method still dear to Mr. Carlyle, constituted the whole of its philosophy and practice. Engrossed almost exclusively with its material interests, the general public found no time to investigate the moral and political questions connected with the fate of these pariahs of the State. Relying on the traditions of the civil judicature, it never dreamed of applying the general maxims of moral and social science to the treatment of moral and social offences. The deplorable result of this radical error has been, that notwithstanding the great augmentation of our physical wealth and power—our increase of luxury and refinement,—crime has not been arrested.....No man has a right to despair of his fellow:—and least of all has a government—which ought to be as unimpassioned and im-

personal as abstract Law and Justice—a right to treat any of its subjects as utterly incorrigible and lost. That false dogma is more dangerous and morally destructive than most persons imagine—lying, as it does, at the threshold of penal jurisprudence, and falsifying the very *principia* of social ethics. Its removal must be the starting point in any sound system of criminal reform.” Attention is again called to Capt. Maconochie’s “Mark system,”* changing the *time* punishment into a definite *labour* punishment, thus making toil the expiator of crime, the means of reformation. The *Athenæum* remarks: “The idea is noble,—and is, moreover, in harmony with Nature’s own processes. Capt. Maconochie says he owes the original suggestion to a passage in Dr. Whately’s Letter to Earl Grey:—but the idea was familiar to the old penal writers. Beccaria shadows it forth; and Paley, who copied the Italian jurist with great liberality but without acknowledgment, puts the doctrine into nearly the same words as the living archbishop.” The *Athenæum* thus sums up: “The criminal punished, returns to his sphere, hardened, bruised but not broken—and asserts the ‘manliness’ of his character by again braving the peril from which he has returned. The delinquent reformed, and restored

* See *ante*, p. 84.

Capt.
Maconochie’s
“Mark
system.”

to the world, becomes the centre of an influence for good operating on his family and connexions. This is the most praiseworthy mode of deterring. We think that state of society little desirable in which the fear of punishment is the only motive to virtuous and honourable conduct."

The report of the Inspector of Prisons in Scotland is then referred to. The Inspector states drunkenness to be the great source of crime, and contrasts the sobriety of many parts of the Continent with the crime and drunkenness of our own country. This sobriety he attributes to the greater prevalence on the Continent "of physical pleasures, such as music and dancing, the abundance of cheap wine of so mild a kind that it can scarcely intoxicate, and the prevalence of social and mental pleasures of a sort that can be enjoyed by all classes, such as access to public walks, picture galleries, &c.....Among boys and girls in manufacturing towns this want of innocent and rational amusement is a fertile source of crime. The spontaneous delight of children in dancing and singing seems to show that music and the dance are natural pleasures, and in themselves perfectly innocent.....Instead of attempting to uproot such pleasures, these classes [the best educated and most moral] of society would, in my opinion, do good service to morality by encouraging

Drunkenness
a great source
of crime.

them, within due bounds, by their presence and support."

The Gossip announces on the 9th of March that Mr. Beaufoy has erected, at an expense of 3,250*l.*, one of the finest school-houses in the metropolis, calculated for affording gratuitous primary instruction to upwards of a thousand children. On the 16th of March it is noted that the same generous man had endowed a fourth mathematical scholarship of 50*l.* a year in the City of London Schools. "This fourth scholarship is in express commemoration of the donor's late wife, whose interest in these City scholarships was sincere and great." The foundation bears the date of Mrs. Beaufoy's decease. "The City authorities have requested Mr. Beaufoy to sit for his bust, to be placed in the building which he has four times enriched." And again in the following week Mr. Beaufoy appears in the character of a donor. "A cabinet of old coins of great curiosity.....amounting to nearly one thousand pieces, has been presented by him to the Corporation of London,—and deposited in the museum of their library. The coins bear date between the years 1648 and 1675; and are of the kind issued by various traders of the city of London,—partly to supply the want of small change, the Government having put forth no small copper monies before about the year 1672,

The Beaufoy
gifts.

Tradesmen's
tokens.

—and partly by way of advertisement, the name, residence, and sign of the house being generally to be found on each token. They consist of various metals.....and a few even of leather.” Among them is one “struck by a person named Farr, who kept the Rainbow Coffee-house, Fleet-street, which house is still existing in its original state, having escaped the Great Fire in 1666. Farr was presented by the ward inquest to be prosecuted for selling the ‘deleterious liquor’^{Coffee} “deleterious.” called coffee.”

The first review on March 30th is devoted to Hugh Miller’s ‘Foot-Prints of the Creator ; or, ^{Hugh Miller’s} The Asterolepis of Stromness.’ Exception ^{‘Foot-Prints of the Creator.’} is taken to the title of the work as not being calculated to give a correct notion of the contents, as “it is neither a history of creation—as the first part might suggest,—nor a mere account of the fish whose stellate scales have procured for it the name stated in the second. It is, in fact, a vindication of the theory of creation by miracle, against the hypothesis of creation by law as proposed by the author of the ‘Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation.’ ^{The} ‘Foot-Prints of the Creator’ is rather an unhappily chosen title ; since it suggests the idea of a thing done and left,—which appears to be anything but the author’s view of the relation of the Creator to the Universe. In attacking the ^{‘Vestiges.’}

Oken's
'Physiophilo-
sophy.'

views of the author of the 'Vestiges,' Mr. Miller falls into an error which it will be our duty in the first place to expose. Throughout the work he refers to Prof. Oken as one of the great supporters of what he calls the developement hypothesis. The work of Oken's which he quotes in support of this view is his 'Physiophilosophy.'.....Now a faithful comparison of this work with the 'Vestiges' will show that two books can hardly be conceived more widely different. To be sure, they both treat of the same subject,—the great facts of universal nature,—but from points of view exactly opposite. Oken, a disciple of Schelling in his younger days, is an ultra-transcendentalist in philosophy:—the author of the 'Vestiges,' if not a Scotchman, has studied his philosophy under George Combe, and is an avowed materialist. Oken is one of the most profound observers and original thinkers of his time,—while the author of the 'Vestiges' is not original as either an observer or a thinker. The 'Physiophilosophy' of Oken is confessedly an attempt to apply a theory derived from a system of metaphysics to the phenomena of creation,—while the 'Vestiges' professes to give a theory derived from strict induction. The one writer speaks of his book as an 'inspiration,'—the other affirms his to be an expression of a law of organic

developement. Oken starts with the assumption of the eternal presence of God in creation:—‘All that we perceive are words and thoughts of God.’ The author of the ‘Vestiges’ denies the presence and cognizance of the Creator in creation.—Yet, Mr. Miller persists everywhere in confounding the two authors. Nay, more:—he takes passages out of Oken’s book, and, separating them from the context, thereby makes the Professor to advocate theories which he never intended..... We wish Mr. Miller were the only author who attacks Oken without even an attempt at understanding his views. The puerile rancour with which the ‘Physiophilosophy’ of this great man has been attacked in this country is as unworthy the true dignity of science as it is indicative of the incapacity and bigotry of those who exhibit it. That work contains many profound reflections, which, if read in the spirit of loving the truth, will be found to be suggestive of great discoveries. We cannot now discuss the difference between hypothesis and theory—between what *may be* true and what *is not* true,—but these are important things to be regarded when discussing such works as that of Prof. Oken and the ‘Vestiges.’”

The creation of a university for New South Wales is announced on the 13th of April as a “striking expression of the rapid developement

University
for New
South Wales.

of the history of a colony founded, in times comparatively recent, with the worst materials of civilization, grafted on the lowest forms of barbarism existing on the earth. The new institution is to be at Sydney; and a sum of 30,000*l.* has been, it is said, voted for the building and 5,000*l.* for its fittings-up.....There is to be no faculty of Theology,—and, as we understand it, no religious tests.”

The leader of the 20th of April is devoted to a review of F. Knight Hunt's now well-known work ‘The Fourth Estate.’ Mr. Hunt's volumes contain the record of the birth and parentage of the Fourth Estate; and “giant though he be now, there are men, and women too, who remember him when scarcely out of his swaddling clothes. Mr. Hunt is evidently of the number. He was certainly present ‘on Lammas-eve at night’: and he babbles accordingly about the tetchy infancy of the youngster,—and honestly acknowledges that he had ‘worm-wood’ enough at starting to spoil the sweetest temper. The periodical press was born but as yesterday. It struggled into manhood—and won for itself the power and the position which it now holds — won them by its own unaided merit. Mr. Hunt is of opinion that the first English newspaper was published so late as 1622 :..... ‘There is now no reason to doubt

Knight
Hunt's
‘The Fourth
Estate.’

The first
English news-
paper.

that the puny ancestor of the myriads of broad sheets of our time was published in the metropolis in 1622, and that the most prominent of the ingenious speculators who offered the novelty to the world was one Nathaniel Butter.....The title was THE WEEKLY NEWES. What appears to be the earliest sheet bears date the 23rd of May (1622).’.....Butter’s merit was simply the putting into type what he and others had been accustomed to supply in manuscript. Butter was professionally a News-letter writer—one of a class that undertook to forward to all who were able to indulge in such luxuries a periodical letter of news. Ben Jonson and Shirley have left us pleasant caricatures of these men, and of their manner of conducting business. But the poets could not laugh them out of existence: and, strange as it may appear, there were news-letter writers so late as the time of our fathers. Mr. Nichols has left the fact on record from personal knowledge; and traces of the fashion still remain in Ireland,—where newspapers exist called ‘Saunders’s News-Letter’ and ‘The Belfast News-Letter.’” The struggles of the early press, “in truth, were the struggles for English liberty. Mr. Hunt has, we think, dwelt too much at length on the well-known sufferings of Prynne and Bastwick and Burton and Lilburn. His special concern, not-

News-letter
writers.

withstanding the licence of his title-page, was the history of the periodical press; and Marchmont Needham for the Commonwealth, and Roger L'Estrange for the Restoration, would have allowed field enough for all that was essential to his history. The publication of the Debates in Parliament was early thought of, long battled for,—and is now only tolerated, not sanctioned, and left at the mercy of the indiscreet or the thoughtless; for any one member can exclude the reporters at his mere will and pleasure.”*

* “Even now the theory of Parliament is, that the debates take place with closed doors; to speak of reports in newspapers except to complain of them as breach of privilege, is irregular, and the mere mention of the fact that there are strangers in the House is enough, as a matter of course, to clear the reporters’ gallery. Should this farce continue? Should that which is of vital importance to our liberty be held on such terms?”—‘The Fourth Estate,’ vol. ii. pp. 286 and 287. This work of Knight Hunt’s was a great favourite with John Francis, being always in front of him as he sat at his desk in Wellington Street. It was one of the very few books he allowed himself the luxury of having bound. On the inside cover is pasted a letter from Knight Hunt, dated January 31st, 1853, stating that he shall be most happy to talk over the advertisement proposition. John Francis often referred to the book during his last illness, and a few weeks before his death expressed a wish that a third volume could be written, bringing the work up to more recent times.

On the 20th of April Mr. Charles V. Walker's work on 'Electric Telegraph Manipulation' also calls for notice. Mr. Walker was the Superintendent of Telegraphs to the South-Eastern Railway Company, and his little manual, published by Knight & Sons, gives a complete explanation of the manipulation of the electric telegraph. It is curious to compare Mr. Walker's remarks on the rates of charges to the public for the use of the telegraph with the experience of the present-day. "They are," he says, "based upon a rate of 1*d.* a mile for twenty words, 5*s.* being the minimum charge. I am not disposed to think that any such reduction as could prudently be made in these rates would produce an adequate increase of telegraphic business. Where the mail service is so perfect as it is in this country, and the postal rates are so low, no reduction in our tariff could bring us into competition with the General Post-Office, and take much from the letter bag." The work contains some curious anecdotes, one of an individual at Dover who presented himself at the telegraph office with a sum of money, and desired the clerk to "send the *money itself, in propria forma*, up to London, by telegraph"; and at London a servant brought a small parcel *to be sent by telegraph* to a distant part of the country.

Walker's
'Electric
Telegraph
Manipulation.'

Telegraphic
charges.

In the Gossip of the same week it is noted that "the poet Moore is said to be standing on the extreme border of a life which has been very brilliant to himself and has yielded a charm to thousands. The lamp of his days is flickering in its socket,—and

His shadow falls upon his grave,
So near the brink he stands."

Death of
Madame
Tussaud.

Announcement is also made of the death, in her ninetieth year, of Madame Tussaud, the well-known worker in wax.

Steam com-
munication
with the
West Indies.

It is noted on the 11th of May that the long-pending scheme of the British Government for the organization of a complete system of steam communication with the West Indies, Mexico, Brazil, and the Pacific has been completed.

Sir
Humphry
Davy's safety
lamp.

At the soirée of the Royal Society on the 18th of May, at which Prince Albert was present, among the objects exhibited was the original model of Sir Humphry Davy's safety lamp, which had been recently presented to the Society by Joseph Hodgson, F.R.S. The *Athenæum* of the 25th of May gives the following particulars, furnished by Mr. Weld: "In November 1815, Sir Humphry read a paper before the Royal Society 'On the Fire-damp of Coal Mines, and on Methods of lighting the Mines so as to prevent its Explosion.' In

this communication he described a safe light, 'which became extinguished when introduced into very explosive mixtures of fire-damp': but as this fell short of the philosopher's wishes, he instituted a fresh series of experiments—which resulted in his invention of the safety lamp, described in a paper read before the Society in January 1816. 'The invention,' he says, 'consists in covering or surrounding the flame of a lamp or candle by a wire sieve'; and he adds, 'when a lighted lamp or candle screwed into a ring soldered to a cylinder of wire gauze, having no apertures except those of the gauze, is introduced into the most explosive mixture of carburetted hydrogen and air, the cylinder becomes filled with a bright flame, and this flame continues to burn as long as the mixture is explosive.' The model in the possession of the Royal Society answers in every respect to this description, and to the representation of the lamp which accompanies the paper. It was made by Sir Humphry's own hands, and given by him to Dr. Lee, now Lord Bishop of Manchester, whose father was Assistant Secretary to the Royal Society at the time of Davy's Presidency. The excessive simplicity of the contrivance is most remarkable; but this is one of the greatest advantages which attended the invention. As the author remarks in the

paper just quoted :—‘all that the miner requires to insure security, are small wire cages to surround his candle or lamp, which may be made for a few pence, and of which various modifications may be adopted. And the application of this discovery will not only preserve him from the fire-damp, but enable him to apply it to use and to destroy it at the same time that it gives him a useful light.’”

A short notice is given on the 1st of June of Jane Porter. Miss Jane Porter, who had died at Bristol on the 24th of May, in the seventy-fourth year of her age: “If we cannot precisely say of the Lady what was said of Miss Burney, ‘that she lived to become a classic,’ it will never be forgotten that the historical romances of herself and her sister, together with the national tales of Miss Edgeworth, were indubitably the pioneers of ‘the noble army’ of the ‘Waverley Novels.’.....She was actively kind in deed, as well as indulgent in word.”

The death of Wordsworth had given rise to considerable discussion as to who should succeed him as Poet Laureate. Mr. Tennyson’s name had been mentioned from the first, but the *Athenæum* and many of its contemporaries had strongly urged the propriety of taking the opportunity of “getting rid of the mummeries of the Laureateship,” while retaining the emolu-

ments in some other shape as a literary prize. The *Athenæum* suggests that "in the reign of a youthful queen, if there be among her subjects one of her own sex whom the laurel will fit, its grant to a female would be at once an honourable testimonial to the individual, a fitting recognition of the remarkable place which the women of England have taken in the literature of the day, and a graceful compliment to the Sovereign herself. It happens to fall in well with this view of the case, that there is no living poet of either sex who can prefer a higher claim than Mrs. Elizabeth Barrett Browning."

In reviewing Lawson's 'History of Banking' on the 22nd of June the *Athenæum* makes the following reference to Mr. Coutts: "The biography of Mr. Coutts remains to be written; and we can only say that whenever it may be undertaken we trust the writer of it will have the good sense to perceive that he has to do something more than recite anecdotes and describe the foibles of a millionaire. Thomas Coutts stands at the head of one of the highest and largest classes of 'practical men.' His fortune was fairly and honourably earned by the exercise of a judgment and observation that very rarely deceived him,—by the aid of a large fund of common sense and a profound

Thomas
Coutts.

knowledge of mankind,—by dexterity in his profession,—by enterprise, industry and perseverance,—and by proficiency in the rare art of choosing as his coadjutors men whom he could imbue with his own spirit and entirely win over to his interests. In England we are content to call men of this stamp merely ‘practical.’ They neither write books nor make speeches: but they constitute, nevertheless, the pith and bone of the community,—and are in no mean sense of the term true leaders of their age and country.”

Death of
Sir Robert
Peel.

On July 6th tribute is rendered to Sir Robert Peel, who had died on the previous Tuesday. “His title to the sympathy of literary men arises from the sympathy which he had with their cause and works—and the many ways and occasions which he took of showing it. He loved their society,—understood and encouraged Art,—and apprehended and appreciated the labours of the great scientific characters of his age.” Sir Robert Peel had early learned to sympathize with the necessities of literary men. “He was their earnest advocate out of power, and their warmest supporter when in power. We well remember a suggestion (it might have been a motion) made in the Commons in 1832, by Mr. Hume, that some ribbon of honour should be given by the State to men distinguished

in literature and science. The suggestion was opposed by Sir Robert Peel. Mere symbols of distinction, he observed, were not what was necessary for the wants of literary men. 'Honours to a man in my situation,' said Goldsmith, 'are like ruffles to a man who is in want of a shirt.' The more substantial approbation of the public should assume, he thought, the shape of public pensions for services rendered. When this was said, the statesman by whom it was uttered was not in power. Our readers know that we do not exactly agree in view with this proposition of his;—but it may be recorded to his honour that when two years afterwards he was in power, he nobly illustrated the sentiments announced on that occasion.....

Southey received a pension of 300*l.* a year, and was offered a baronetcy; Wordsworth received a pension of the same amount; 150*l.* a year was given to James Montgomery; and during Sir Robert's second administration 200*l.* a year was bestowed on Mr. Tytler, 200*l.* a year on Mr. Tennyson, 200*l.* a year on Mr. M'Culloch, and 100*l.* a year on the widow of Thomas Hood..... For the sons of Mrs. Hemans he found places under the Crown.....and the first appointment of his first administration was given to a son of Allan Cunningham.....Mrs. Somerville and Mr. Faraday owe the pensions they enjoy to the

Pensions to
literary men.

same friendly minister; and the Deanery of Westminster was bestowed by him on Dr. Buckland."

The Rev.
William
Kirby.

The Rev. William Kirby, Rector of Barham, Suffolk, died on the 4th of July in his ninety-first year, and on the 13th an obituary notice appeared, which stated that he "ranked as the father of entomology in Britain; and to the successful results of his labours may be chiefly attributed the advance which has been made in this over other kindred departments of natural history. His reputation is based not so much on the discoveries made by him in the science as on the manner of its teaching. No man ever approached the study of the works of Nature with a purer or more earnest zeal. His interpretation of the distinguishing characters of insects for the purposes of classification has excited the warmest approval of entomologists at home and abroad; while his agreeable narrative of their wonderful transformations and habits, teeming with analysis and anecdote, has a charm for almost every kind of reader. Mr. Kirby's first work of particular note was the '*Monographia Apum Angliæ*,' in two volumes, published half a century ago at Ipswich.....His admirable work on the Wild Bees of Great Britain was composed from materials collected almost entirely by himself,—

and most of the plates were of his etching..... The name of Kirby will, however, be chiefly remembered for the 'Introduction to Entomology' written by him in conjunction with Mr. Spence. In this work a vast amount of material, acquired after many years' unremitting observation of the insect world, is mingled together by two different but congenial minds in the pleasant form of familiar letters. The charm, based on substantial knowledge of the subject, which these letters impart has caused them to be studied with an interest never before excited by any work on natural history,—and they have served for the model of many an entertaining and instructive volume. Whether William Kirby or William Spence had the more meritorious share in the composition of these Letters, has never been ascertained; for each, in the plenitude of his esteem and love for the other, renounced all claim, in favour of his coadjutor, to whatever portion of the matter might be most valued."

William
Spence.

On July 20th an account is given from the *Pacific News* of the first printing press manufactured in California: "It is of a size to print a foolscap sheet of paper: the frames and ribs are of wrought iron, the bed and platten taken from a medium sized copying press; the bed enlarged by a wrought bar of iron welded to

The first
printing press
made in
California.

the sides, and planed down to an even surface."

Perceval
Weldon
Banks.

On the 24th of August the death of Perceval Weldon Banks (better known as the Morgan Rattler of *Fraser's Magazine*) on the 13th calls for a few words of comment: "Mr. Banks, though only in his 45th year, was the last of the race of writers who, with Dr. Maginn, Mr. Churchill, and others, gave a sting and pungency (of a vicious and unwholesome kind, however,) to the early numbers of that journal. He seldom did justice to his own talents,—for he wrote too often in haste, always at the last moment, and too rarely with good taste."

Thomas
Dodd.

The death is also noted of Thomas Dodd, a well-known connoisseur in ancient prints, his judgment in matters of calcography being deemed second to none. He was the author of a well-esteemed work entitled 'The Connoisseur's Repertory.' He died at Liverpool in his eightieth year.

The rise of
Mormonism.

The doings of the Mormons in America are referred to in the same number: "Few incidents in modern days are more strange and interesting to the reader of history than the rise, progress, and present state of this singular sect. It arose—not in a dark age, not in an obscure desert, not among an unknown race, not distant from the lights of science and civilization,—but in our

own day, in New York, the most prosaic state in the world, among men of Saxon blood, in the reign of magazines and newspapers. We have seen it ascending step by step from the first grotesque imposture, through various stages of persecution and proscription, till it emerged from the conflicts on the Mississippi an armed and self-supporting polity,—to found in the region of the Great Salt Lake the new State of Deseret.The future historian of religious movements will find the records of Mormonism full of suggestiveness. As a creed, and as a polity, it has now taken its place on the stage of nations. The latest advices from Deseret represent it as in flourishing condition. Whether its origin was knavery or fanaticism,—whether we laugh at the low vices of its founder, or consider them as the failings to which history shows that prophets have been liable,—the State of Deseret is there. This State, with its foundations laid in what would seem the grossest ignorance and superstition, has established a University ; and if we may judge from the address of the chancellor, the Mormons intend to engage learning largely in their service. Languages especially they wish to cultivate.....The works of all dead languages are to be translated for general use. Among other changes it is intended 'to purge the English alphabet of all needless letters.' ”

Telegraphic
communica-
tion with
France.

On the 31st of August it is announced that the telegraphic wires between Dover and Cape Grinez were laid down and got into operation on the previous Wednesday, "and despatches are now passing by their means. The distance is twenty-one miles from point to point. The weather being extremely fine, the whole wires were submerged without accident, and it is supposed that they are placed beyond the reach of disturbance from marine animals or cross currents.....Messrs. Brett, of Hanover Square, have the exclusive privilege, from both Governments, for ten years."*

Extramural
interments:
George
Walker.

In the same number the Government receive severe reproof for their treatment of Mr. George Walker, who had, at the hazard of his life and to the serious detriment of his practice as a surgeon, succeeded in effecting a most important reform. "In the public service he has descended into the grave-yards of the metropolis with a boldness and self-devotion worthy of a Howard. He made himself familiar with all their horrors; that he might bring back from the charnel-house the secret of those endemic pests which rage so fearfully in the more crowded districts. To the energy with which he conducted these

* Unfortunately, as is well known, the wire in settling into the sea bottom crossed a rocky ridge and snapped in two.

investigations, and to the lucidity and power with which he laid the results before the world, we trace the first awakening of public interest in the question of extramural interments, — now decided in favour of that public. To his unwearied industry and tact, aided by a liberal press, we are indebted for the powerful convictions which afterwards forced the Government to put an end to such abominations, and interpose its authority in order to guard against their return. It might reasonably be imagined that the courageous reformer would be employed to see his reforms carried into effect. But the State adopts Mr. Walker's ideas—not Mr. Walker. Others are appointed to execute his plans, so laboriously and painfully prepared."

It is also noted that the Act for enabling mayors and town councils to establish Public Libraries and Museums of Natural History had received the royal assent.

Public
Libraries Act.

In reviewing Robert Owen's 'The Revolution in the Mind and Practice of the Human Race; or, the coming Change from Irrationality to Rationality,' on the 14th of September, the *Athenæum* remarks: "An interesting chapter in the history of social science in England, hereafter to be written, will be, the story of Robert Owen,—his ideas, his experiments, his failures, his untiring devotion to what

Robert Owen.

most men, now that they have ceased to cause alarm, regard as his humane crotchets. His schemes were the most important offspring in this country—for on the Continent they have been more prolific of fruit, good and bad—of the ideas of Bentham and his famous formula. Owen started with ‘the greatest happiness to the greatest number’ theory. His instrument was education for the masses. In this respect he was a true reformer; the good which he was the means of effecting by his plan of infant schools will remain for a monument when his name will have ceased to be remembered as the founder of a sect. Ten or a dozen years ago the doctrines of Owen had numerous disciples. Now, they have hardly a follower, because they have been tried and found wanting. The front of his ‘National Society’ was at one time imposing:—no town but had its hall of science, its social institute. These, however, were not accepted by the anxious workman who had subscribed his mite to build them as a solution of the great problem of society. Trial was urged—prematurely as it is said,—and with trial came failure. The scheme exploded at once, and the disciples were scattered to the winds. But these failures, if they brought momentary discouragement to their author, caused him to abate no jot of heart or hope. His enthusiasm has outlived alike toil,

successes, reverses and neglect. There is something interesting in convictions which keep the heart green in the eve of life, reposing on the hope that springs from faith in the power of truth to conquer all obstacles in the end, and in its own time to atone for and explain all seeming failures by the way."

The *Athenæum* was the first journal to advocate the introduction of the Penny Bank into London, and on September 21st the gratifying fact is recorded that more than a dozen of "these most useful establishments are now in full operation in the metropolis alone,—and the number of depositors is counted already by tens of thousands. The first experiment was tried in Commercial Street, Whitechapel,—and with the following gratifying results.—The institution was opened on the 30th of January in the present year; in the 227 days which had elapsed on the 15th inst., 49,516 deposits had been made by 7,853 different persons,—and the whole of their savings in these eight and a half months amounted to 2,017*l*. In every respect the issue of this experiment is interesting and encouraging. Strongly as we urged a trial of the Penny Bank in the neglected districts of London, we must confess we were not prepared to find its success so rapid and complete as the statement of the Whitechapel directors makes it appear.

Penny banks
in London.

Those who were waiting for some tangible results on which to base their operations in the same line may take courage from this example, and begin."

The
Zoological
Society.

An aquarium
suggested.

On the 5th of October the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society* for 1849 calls for favourable notice, and the Society is congratulated upon the progress it is making: "Here we have a volume of Proceedings more interesting and better illustrated than the Transactions of half the Societies of Europe." The *Athenæum* suggests that an aquarium should be added to the collection. "One of the objects of this Society is, to exhibit living specimens of rare animals. Why should they not have invertebrate as well as vertebrate animals,—those that live in the water as well as those that live in the air? Glass is cheap:—why should they not have a collection of fishes and marine animals?.....Sea water may be got every day from the sea, at a trifling expense,—even if the company for bringing sea water into London should not succeed." The article closes by again urging the Society to have lectures in the gardens, asserting that the public would appreciate them: "The Zoological Society has the power not only to advance science, but to confer a great social benefit,—and we hope they will not forego the opportunities of increased usefulness which are now open before

them. Already they have done wonders,—and there is no place of recreation in London that combines so much of amusement and instruction as their Gardens. They have had a brilliant season,—and the path to a brilliant future lies clear before them.”

It is noted on the 9th of November that “the Australian papers report that the first railway on that continent has been commenced. It is to begin at Sydney,—but to go whither, no man is rash enough to predict. The direction, however, is not along the coast, but into the interior of the country. A century hence—such is the wondrous growth of the colony—it may possibly cross that vast desert which no traveller has yet been able to explore.—The first line is also about to be commenced in Hindústan. It is an imposing evidence of the activity of the Saxon, that, before the Turk, the Roman, or the Iberian has got a single mile of railway in his territory, the former has not only covered his own country with a network of iron roads, but has begun to form them on the other side of the world in lands conquered and acquired within comparatively few years!”

The first
railway in
Australia.

In Hindústan.

Attention is called on November 16th to the statement made in the daily papers that a proposal was under consideration to tax the electric telegraph with a mileage. The *Athenæum* re-

Proposal to
tax the
electric
telegraph.

fused to believe it possible that the Government would venture thus "to rob us of our scientific means,—that wherever in the progress of knowledge we make two strides forward the tax-gatherer must come rashly in to appropriate one.A country like England, so thickly studded with large and busy towns, is the one of all others to profit by this rapid mode of conveying intelligence:—yet the fact is unquestionable, that the general public are still to an almost incredible extent practically unfamiliar with the new and wondrous agency. The Press, the Exchange, Government, and a few great merchants are the only powers whose service it performs from day to day. This is not the case in the United States. There, the telegraph never ceases its labours, because it has a public. The secret lies in the cost. In America the silent messenger is cheap,—in England it is preposterously dear. Let us quote two or three examples of the data on which we speak. The distance from Philadelphia to Harrisburg is 107 miles, the price of a message is 10*d.* From London to Cheltenham the distance is 100 miles, the charge 7*s.* 6*d.* Seven miles less and eight times the rate! From New York to Boston, distance 240 miles, the charge is 1*s.* 3*d.*; from London to Liverpool, distance 210 miles, 8*s.* 6*d.* From Washington to New Orleans, 1,716 miles,

Cost of
messages.

the price is 8s.; from London to Newcastle, 300 miles, it is 10s.....Instead of adding to the expense of working the iron messengers, every effort should be made to reduce it so as to bring its benefits and consolations within the reach of smaller means. In this, as in some other respects, America sets the old continent a good example."

The same number states that "the merchants and manufacturers of Manchester have resolved—as we strongly urged some months ago they would—to send an agent out to Hindústan to inquire into the reasons which at present operate to prevent the growth of cotton in that country."

Growth of
cotton in
Hindústan.

On the same page it is also mentioned that Russia, Sweden, Denmark, and Holland "have entered into an agreement to open conferences on the old question of a common meridian for all nations. France, Spain, and Portugal, it is said, have given in their adhesion to the scheme; and a hope is held out that England will come into the arrangement." The *Athenæum* remarks: "There never has been, and there never can be, a doubt as to the utility to science of common points of reference and uniformity of regulation; and no local jealousy should be allowed to stand in the way of them. The most advanced opinion on the Continent seems to be in favour of the selection of an entirely neutral point of inter-

Common
meridian for
all nations.

section,—say Cape Horn,—which would have the immense advantage of being agreeable to the Americans. If the Admiralty are disposed to go with this movement, there seems a probability of establishing once and for ever this great maritime desideratum.”

An agreement has recently been come to, at international conferences held first at Rome and afterwards in America, by which Greenwich is accepted as the first meridian for the whole world, all longitudes being reckoned east and west from Greenwich.

Mr. Tennyson
made Poet
Laureate.

It is announced on November 23rd that Lord John Russell had conferred the Laureateship on Mr. Tennyson.

Elizabeth
Barrett
Browning.

On November 30th a long review is given of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poems. With Mrs. Browning, “imagination has emphatically its source in the heart. It is her intensity of personal feeling which produces the vivid symbols by which it is expressed: and dealing with her poetry by this standard, we say unhesitatingly, that we know no record of woman's nature which in depth, purity, and force can be compared to that which these pages contain. The ardour of woman's individual devotion, her self-sacrificing love, her sympathy with the victims of wrong, and her faith in a presiding good that consecrates and chastens affection,

find their fullest exposition in Mrs. Browning's writings. Love in its highest sense—love for whatever is ennobling and beautiful—is the inspiration of her song :—a love not only fervent enough to fathom the abysses of sorrow, but clear-sighted to perceive, and firm to grasp, the pearls of faith which lie beneath those troubled depths.....Mrs. Browning is probably, of her sex, the first imaginative writer England has produced in any age :—she is, beyond comparison, the first poetess of her own." Many extracts are given, and among them "the words of Rosalind's scroll" from 'The Poet's Vow,' the last three lines being printed in italics :—

"I charge thee, by the living's prayer,
And the dead's silentness,
To wring from out thy soul a cry
Which God shall hear and bless !
*Lest Heaven's own palm droop in my hana,
And pale among the saints I stand,
A saint companionless."*

"The intensity of love was never expressed in a sublimer picture than these last lines present."

The *Athenæum* had often pointed out the pressing urgency which existed for the establishment of some form of provision for the literary man, such institution to be on a broad scale, partly self-supporting and partly endowed, and on the 30th of November pleasure is expressed

Founding
of the
"Guild of
Literature
and Art."

at "the munificent offer made by Sir Edward Lytton Bulwer at the close of some dramatic entertainments which he has been giving at Knebworth,—the performers consisting of the company of amateurs who usually play under the managerial direction of Mr. Dickens. Sir Edward proposes to write a play, to be acted by that company at various places in the United Kingdom:—the proceeds to form the germ of a fund for a certain number of houses to be further endowed for literary men and artists,—and the play itself, if we understand rightly, to be afterwards disposed of for the added benefit of the fund. Sir Edward will likewise give in fee ground on his estate in Herts, for the erection of such Asylum, Rest, Retreat, or whatever else it may be determined to call the residences in question.....We will hope that out of this beginning will grow a shelter for the failing literary mind proportioned to the wants of the class and to its more than common claims on society."

St. Paul's. The same number states that "the Chapter of St. Paul's are willing to enter into terms with the City authorities for a general reform of abuses in relation to our great national cathedral. They propose, it is said, to abolish the unbecoming charge for entrance at the door,—and to remove the iron palisades, and throw open the entire

space up to the doors, as in the case of Notre Dame in Paris,—on condition that the Corporation undertakes to widen and improve the approaches.—We confess we should greatly like to see such a compromise carried out. On the north side especially, the edifice requires a larger space of underlying ground; and at the north-east end of the churchyard a great improvement might be effected at a very slight cost by throwing down a few houses and continuing the line of St. Martin's-le-Grand to the nave of the Cathedral. This slight change in the existing state of things would enable the thousands who daily pass along Cheapside to gain a complete view of the noble pile, instead of seeing only a small section of it through a chink.....This improvement might be effected in a few weeks:—certainly before the Exhibition opens, and our invited guests from Europe and America are at our doors.”*

* On the 26th of January, 1874, the iron railings having been removed, the space in front of the Cathedral was formally opened; and on February 5th, 1886, a meeting was held at the Mansion House, at which it was proposed to take advantage of the removal of St. Paul's School to widen the thoroughfare on the east side. Mr. H. H. Bridgman said the key of any improvement was to set back the frontage behind Peel's statue, and to continue it across the corner to St. Paul's Churchyard to the north side, by which means they would get a line of street eighty feet wide, and only necessitate the cutting off of a

Mechanics' Institutions had always been warmly supported by the *Athenæum*, and regret had been expressed at their failure. Those interested had been frequently urged to rely upon classes instead of lectures for success.*

The London Mechanics' Institution. The London Mechanics' Institution now contemplated the adoption of this plan, and sent the proposals of reorganization to the editor, with a request that an opinion should be given on the proposed changes.

On the 7th of December appears the following reply: — "The directors of the London Mechanics' Institution have at length arrived at what we think is a proper conception of the defects of the whole system; and the alterations of their scheme amount in reality to the foundation of a new institute. They propose, with the consent of their present members, to change their present name to that of 'The Birkbeck College,' —and their very miscellaneous programme for a well-devised and well-defined system of instruction. They purpose to make their 'College' a place of education, instead of a mere refuge for idleness and daily gossip. This is so far

slice of twenty-five feet from the block of buildings at the corner of Cheapside. Thus after the lapse of thirty-six years the change suggested by the *Athenæum* is *proposed*. Truly the ways of chapters and corporations are slow.

* See Prof. Hunt's letter, *ante*, p. 102.

good. Men who want amusement will always prefer the theatre to the lecture or class room: they who want instruction are not willing to be put off with anything inferior to the Evening Classes now at work in so many parts of London. The directors of the proposed 'Birkbeck College' should take those classes as their standard of efficiency. If they can see their way to providing better—or even as good—instruction for their pupils, they may not unreasonably hope for success,—as their larger scheme will give them advantages not possessed by their rivals. But we would caution them to rely on their classes:—the lecture-room and the library are admirable as adjuncts, but they are only adjuncts.* Most of our large institutions have made the mistake of devoting their funds to these departments, to the neglect of classes,—and we see the results on every hand, in debt, embarrassment, failure of members, and dissolution. The lecture system, which once promised to become a valuable auxiliary of

Evening
classes.

* The earliest organization claimed as a Mechanics' Institution had been based on this system—the Birmingham Brotherly Society, originally founded in 1789 by Sunday-school teachers under the title of the Sunday Society. The classes were for general instruction, but in addition to these there were a library and some free lectures ('Life of George Birkbeck,' by John George Godard).

education, has fallen into total discredit. Lectures are dead burdens upon every institution. They are scantily attended,—and they rarely pay expenses. The reason is obvious:—they are not attractive. Economy has so led the directors to reduce terms, or to accept offers on low terms in preference to high ones,—that men of name and mark no longer look to this source as a part of their means.....Under any circumstances, the lecture should be only auxiliary. It is less education than an incitement to it.....If the present scheme be wisely and energetically carried out, the college will deserve to succeed, and we trust may reckon on the necessary measure of public support."

This scheme unfortunately was not carried out, and the Institution had to pass through many years of hard struggle. It was not until Mr. George M. Norris, LL.B., the present Principal, became connected with it in 1864 that the educational work was developed. Mr. Norris drew up a scheme of classes, which was adopted, and the prosperity of the Institution has been established from that time. There are now over one hundred and fifty classes meeting weekly, in subjects which include French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Hebrew, Sanskrit, Hindustani, Arabic, chemistry, physics, mathematics, mechanics, machine

The Birkbeck
Institution.

and building construction, physiology, botany, biology, hygiene, logic, psychology, political economy, music, drawing, and painting. During the first term of the session 1885-6, 5,520 class tickets were issued. The number of persons borrowing books from the library (which contains 10,000 volumes) from September, 1885, to February, 1886, exceeded 1,900. The accounts, which are made up to the 30th of September in each year, show in 1885 the members' subscriptions to have been 1,648*l.* 4*s.* ; the class fees, 2,649*l.* 2*s.* The amount received for tickets for lectures proves the soundness of the advice given by the *Athenæum*, being only 179*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* The total receipts and disbursements for the year amounted to 5,512*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*, and it is satisfactory to record that there was a balance of 1*l.* 2*s.* In 1867 the title of London Mechanics' Institution was changed to that of the Birkbeck Literary and Scientific Institution. The above facts have been kindly supplied by the secretary and chief librarian, Mr. William H. Congreve.

The labour question was now again coming to the front, the movement being in the direction of association, as the *Athenæum* had often stated would be the case. The number for December 7th records the taking of a mill near Manchester by weavers for the purpose of manufacturing on their own account. In Bacup a

The labour
question.

mill was said to be in successful operation, conducted by three hundred operatives; and in Heywood a similar experiment was being tried on a smaller scale. "Three hundred men on strike have taken a mill! We believe these few words will startle some ears like a report of barricades. Such a circumstance may or may not help to revolutionize industry; but it speaks of sobriety, union, character, and forecasting habits in the men.....Much as we have seen and heard of the progress of Manchester during the last dozen years, we remember no fact so powerfully significant of advance as this attempt—however more or less wise or hopeful—at co-operative labour."

Faraday's
experiments :
the diurnal
movements
of the
magnetic
needle.

The Bakerian Lecture delivered by Mr. Faraday is also reported in the number for December 7th. After alluding to the experiments of Padre Bancalari, the lecturer showed "the opposite magnetic condition of oxygen and nitrogen; the former when inclosed in a bubble of glass is always attracted by the magnet, the latter repelled. In common with iron and some other metals, oxygen loses its magnetism on the application of heat, and regains it on again becoming cold. In this fact Mr. Faraday finds the cause of the diurnal movements of the magnetic needles all over the world, as exhibited at the respective observatories; and he explains

the apparent anomalies which occur at St. Helena and Singapore on the hypothesis induced from the whole of the phenomena..... The explanation was to be received as conjectural, although, at present, as sufficiently satisfying the theory."

The first place is given on the 14th of December to a review of "a book crammed as full as a bombshell of combustible materials," 'The Navy: its Past and Present State,' by Rear-Admiral Sir Charles Napier, "one of the most slashing critics of the day.....a kind of Red Rover let loose upon the realms of literature, and so little under the control of ordinary restraints, that in his diligent search after booty he has quite as much enjoyment in flaying alive a friend as an enemy. Sir Charles never writes without producing an effect. Even when he is most unreasonable, it is impossible not to admit that he is probably sincere. He has generally something to say either in praise of himself or in ridicule of others. He is a sailor, and therefore frank,—an admiral, and therefore imperious,—an ornament of his profession, and therefore even in his eccentricities likely to be listened to. Add, that he is as disputatious as old Samuel Johnson,—as great a master of vernacular English as Jonathan Swift,—and frequently as vivacious as 'Peter Plymley.'"

Admiral
Sir Charles
Napier.

William
Sturgeon.

On December 21st an obituary notice appears of William Sturgeon, who had died on the 8th, at Manchester, where he had for some years filled the office of lecturer on science to the Royal Victoria Gallery of Practical Science. He was a striking example of "a man working his own way from a very humble station in life to one of considerable scientific eminence." He was born at Whittington, in Lancashire, in 1783, and was apprenticed by his parents to a shoemaker. In 1802 he entered the Westmoreland militia, and two years later he enlisted as a private soldier in the Royal Artillery. "While in this corps he devoted his leisure to scientific studies; and appears to have made himself familiar with all the great facts of electricity and magnetism which were then opening to the world. Ørsted had recently made his great discovery which resulted in the establishment of the new science of electro-magnetism,—at this period engaging the attention of Faraday, Herschel, Arago, Ampère, and others. Mr. Sturgeon entered on the inquiry; and made himself known to the scientific world of the metropolis by his modification of Ampère's rotary cylinders, employed for showing how two electrified masses have a tendency to circulate about each other." In 1825 the Society of Arts awarded to him their large silver medal with a purse of thirty guineas,

Ørsted's
discovery of
electro-
magnetism.

for his improved adaptation of the magnets, batteries, &c., to one another.

The record of the year would be incomplete without some reference to the activity at last displayed by the Government in the search for Sir John Franklin. The *Enterprise* and *Investigator*, under the command of Capt. Collinson, were under orders to enter Behring's Straits, and proceed to the west of Melville Island. They sailed on the 20th of January, each vessel carrying a much larger quantity of gun-powder than had hitherto been supplied to Arctic ships, it being supposed that it might be employed with great success in blasting the ice, instead of the old and tedious process of sawing. The *Athenæum* suggests that "gun-cotton might be used with even greater advantage than powder for this purpose." The ships were provisioned for three years, and supplied with messenger balloons, the invention of Mr. Shephard. Commander M'Clure had charge of the *Investigator*.

The search
for Sir John
Franklin :
the *Enter-
prise* and
Investigator.

Messenger
balloons.

On the 2nd of February the sudden death is noted of Sir Felix Booth, "who owed his baronetcy, and his right to a record in such columns as ours, to one of those acts of munificence which have made the title of British merchant illustrious over the world.....Our readers will not need reminding how, when the

Sir Felix
Booth.

Government hesitated on the path of Arctic discovery, Sir Felix Booth presented Capt. James Ross with a sum of 20,000*l.* to enable him to fit out a Polar Expedition."

Government
reward of
20,000*l.*

On the 7th of March the Government offered a reward of 20,000*l.* "to any party or parties, of any country, who shall render efficient assistance to the crews of the Discovery Ships under the command of Sir John Franklin." On the 23rd of March it is stated that the last mail from the United States had brought intelligence

Mr. Grinnell's
expedition.

that under the auspices of Mr. Grinnell, who had himself subscribed 6,000*l.*, two schooners would proceed early in May, *viâ* Barrow's Straits, in search of Sir John Franklin. Another expedition is announced on April 13th as sailing

Capt. Penny.

from Scotland that day under Capt. Penny, the two ships being the Lady Franklin and the Sophia. Sir John Ross was to sail from Ayr about the middle of May, and another expedition was also under consideration. On the 20th of April an extract from the *Times* states that copies of Capt. Washington's Esquimaux vocabulary had been sent to Capt. Penny and also to Mr. H. Grinnell. The British and North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, having accidentally learnt the contents of the parcel, refused to receive any payment for its carriage.

On the 27th of April it is stated that "before another number of our journal appears, the most complete and effective Expedition that has been equipped for the succour of Sir John Franklin will have left our shores. All the accumulated experience of our Arctic voyagers has been brought to bear in the preparation of the ships under the command of Capt. Austin; Capt. Austin. and having minutely inspected them, we are satisfied that nothing has been neglected to insure success. Remembering the equipment of the *Erebus* and *Terror* with make-shift auxiliary steam-power, which impelled the ships scarcely three knots an hour, we were struck with the contrast presented by the two screw schooners forming part of the present Expedition. These are fitted with sixty-horse engines, and carry 300 tons of coals,—a quantity sufficient to steam at full power for six weeks, at the rate of at least six knots an hour. These schooners will be of infinite use in towing the *Resolute* and *Assistance* ships through the lanes of open water in the Arctic Seas.—The Expedition will be towed to the edge of the ice; where the ships will receive their third year's provisions from the store-ship *Emma Eugenia*, which will precede them." In addition there was an auxiliary expedition under Commander Forsyth, the funds for which were privately subscribed,

Lady Franklin giving a large portion of her means to aid in its equipment.

Return of
Dr. Rae.

It is stated on the 11th of May that Dr. Rae had returned to Fort Confidence, Great Bear Lake, but had found no trace of Sir John Franklin; and on October 5th that the North Star, which sailed in the spring of 1849 with stores and provisions, "has come in from its wandering over that dreary water—but brought no olive branch." Capt. Forsyth had also returned, bringing with him "the exciting

Traces of
the Erebus
and Terror

intelligence that actual traces of the Erebus and Terror have been come upon.....With great difficulty he navigated his small ship [the Prince Albert] as far as Cape Riley:—and here he found traces of five or six tents or encampments, with a small length of ship's rope, and a number of beef and bird bones." He discovered also a memorandum which had been left there by Capt. Ommanney on the 23rd of August, two days previously, stating that he had found traces of an encampment. The rope was sent to Chatham and authenticated as belonging to the stores of the Terror. On the 19th of October appears the official report on the relics sent home, and the *Athenæum* states that "on this evidence it seems nearly clear that the first part of Sir John Franklin's adventures in the Arctic seas is at length told."

CHAPTER VIII.

THE ATHENÆUM, 1851.

WITH the first month of the new year all doubt as to the success of the Great Industrial Exhibition had passed away. The entire space for exhibitors had been allotted, and still applications came in, while the fears of the panic-mongers as to the safety of the building had been thoroughly allayed. The ten days' storm in January failed to shake a pillar or remove a yard of the glass, and to test the galleries the corps of sappers and miners had marched through them in close column.

The Great
Industrial
Exhibition.

During January there was a preliminary exhibition of the Palace of Industry, and on the last day of admission the building was crowded from morning to night at the high fee of five shillings. Meanwhile the notes of preparations from abroad increased daily. An American man-of-war, the *St. Lawrence*, conveyed the produce of the West to Southampton. France voted a large sum of money to cover expenses, the specimens sent being insured for 800,000*l*.

The King of Holland gave up the palace at Amsterdam for storing articles intended for the Exhibition. The Roman Government was also active, the mosaic establishment of the Vatican being busy in preparing examples. The first countries to deliver their exhibits were Russia, China, Belgium, Switzerland, and the states comprising the Zollverein. The *Athenæum* of the 7th of June mentions that the King of Sweden had sent at his own cost a number of able artisans to London to benefit by an examination of the Exhibition, and that in addition to this the General Diet had voted 2,600*l.* for the purpose of defraying the expenses of one hundred Swedish workmen for a similar object. One monarch alone, the King of Naples, refused to allow his subjects to exhibit, many of whom were preparing to take part in the Exhibition when the king issued the order condemning the Neapolitans to inactivity.

Its success
assured.

It has been shown how the *Athenæum* had kept the great scheme before the public from its first faint conception to its magnificent consummation. By the 24th of May, 65,486*l.* had been received from the sale of season tickets alone, while the amount taken at the doors exceeded 38,000*l.* On the 28th of June the returns showed nearly 3,000*l.* a day as the average receipts in shillings.

The object of the *Athenæum*, now that the Exhibition was open, was to make it more than a mere self-eloquent spectacle, and to turn its educational capabilities to the most profitable account. "When was an Encyclopædia of Knowledge like this ever edited by any land before? Here, for the first time, is a Library to which all the world has contributed its living books." With this view articles appeared on the chemical exhibits, mining, metallurgy, food, music, sculpture, and books and printing. In the last division the largest collection of specimens was the Austrian. Besides the types of all countries, the types and forms of letters used in various centuries were also exhibited. The second largest collection was that of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Their case of Bibles contained 165 volumes printed in as many different languages,* being five less than the whole number of reprints made since the institution of the Society in 1804, and of this number 118 were translations never before printed. Messrs. Figgins's "form" of pearl type contained 220,000 pieces and weighed 140 lb. The accuracy of the manufacture was shown by the whole series of minute

The Exhibition as a means of education.

Printing.

* Up to March 31st, 1885, the Society had promoted the distribution of the Scriptures in 267 languages and dialects.

pieces being held together by lateral pressure, technically termed "locking up."

The Exhibition literature. Then came the literature of the Exhibition. The Official Catalogue contained upwards of three hundred pages, and was sold at a shilling,* "a marvel of cheapness,—if it be nothing more." Robert Hunt's 'Hand-Book' is described as small enough for the coat pocket: "The amount of scientific knowledge here compressed into something less than five hundred pages is astonishing.....fresh and recent on all subjects." The 'Illustrated Catalogue,' issued by the proprietors of the *Art Journal*, had wood engravings "offering admirable examples of the condition of the art amongst us; and Messrs. Bradbury & Evans may well point to the volume as evidence of their skill in wood-block printing." The volume contained essays by Robert Hunt, Mrs. Merrifield, and Prof. Forbes, and "The Exhibition, as a Lesson in Taste," for which the proprietors of the *Art Journal* awarded a prize of one hundred guineas to Mr. Wornum. To the 'Official Descriptive and Illustrated Catalogue' three articles were devoted on November 1st, 8th, and

* The copy used by John Francis has written on the outside: "Second edition, 34 pages of advertisements, no duty." Sir John Bennett's advertisement occupied the back page, for which he paid 1,000 guineas, the largest sum ever given for a single advertisement.

15th. The three volumes contained 1,200 illustrations. The history of the Exhibition was contributed by Henry Cole, an account of the construction of the building by Digby Wyatt, and a general classification of the objects in the Exhibition by Dr. Lyon Playfair. In all twenty-six annotators were engaged on the work, selected from eminent professors of science and skilled manufacturers.*

On the 11th of October the gathering of the nations came to a close. The success so ardently wished for by the *Athenæum* had far exceeded the most sanguine anticipations. The entire world had sent contributions. No continent was absent—no single civilized country, save only unhappy Naples. The number of exhibitors exceeded 17,000, and the Exhibition had been visited by 6,170,000, while the gross receipts had exceeded half a million. The *Athenæum* on October 18th says: "One of the great lessons which the Exhibition has taught mankind has been, the futility of prophecies and the danger of hasty judgments.....Exactly a year ago, the

The success
of the
Exhibition.

* The work was published by Spicer and Clowes, the contractors to the Royal Commission. Spicer Brothers were the exhibitors of a large roll of paper 46 inches wide and 2,500 yards in length, thus informing the public for the first time that it was possible to make paper not only in sheets of ordinary size, but in any length that might be desired.

public mind was agitated with the idea of a new black death, to be brought into this country by our foreign visitors.....The Crystal Palace would fall like a house of cards in the first wind.—More than one of the daily papers proclaimed that a revolution would be attempted during the excitement. Many of them professed to have positive information about a Communist conspiracy in London, the object of which was to plunder the accumulated wealth of nations. The fancied conspirators have met by the hundred thousand in the Palace,—and walked quietly out at the ringing of a bell.”

The closing
scene.

The scene at the close of the Exhibition is thus described :—“ As the appointed hour of five drew nigh, the public heart got up a spontaneous and irrepressible celebration of its own. From all the great instruments in the building swelled up at once the music of the national hymn :—and fifty thousand voices bore the music through the long arcade. When the strain had ceased, the mighty cheer that ran through the vast spaces, in their immensity sounding even faint while multitudinous, and the waving of hats and handkerchiefs which carried continuous lines of motion along the far vista, made us feel that we had never seen anything grander save on the opening day. Most affecting it was, too, to see how the people clung about the galleries

that overlooked the transept, and crowded it below, with a love that would not be removed. All the great bells and gongs in the building, with their mighty discords, could not ring them out. It seemed as if the crowd had determined to pass the night in the building ; and for a long time, the authorities, whatever might have been their anxiety, would not interfere with a fondness thus powerfully expressed. The night fell,—and gas had to be resorted to :—and the Palace presented new and startling aspects in the partial lights. When, at length, amongst the latest, we crossed its threshold, and from the Park saw the long line of edifice defined by the glancing through the trees of its own illumination, and reflected in the water, we felt that the Palace had never looked so like a fairy thing as now by its funeral lights.....During these recent years the heart of Europe has throbbed more than once with more profound emotions than have shaken it for ages before ; but this peaceful celebration of the triumphs of Art and Labour has moved it more deeply than all beside. Like one of those lights which Rembrandt threw into the centre of his grand and sombre pictures, the tale of Hyde Park in 1851 will fall on the page of history. Fallen thrones will lie around it : here the Saturnalia of power,—there the wild excess of popular freedom,—on one hand the grim aspect of military rule,

on another dungeons and scaffolds for the crime of thought, — everywhere anarchy, repression, conspiracy, darkness, dismay and death. In the midst of all these struggling spirits rises up the great figure of the Crystal Palace, to redeem the age."

Joanna
Baillie.

The dramatic and poetical works of Joanna Baillie, "the honourable labours of her life collected and arranged in complete form and order," were reviewed on the 11th of January, followed in a few weeks, on March 1st, by the announcement of the death of this quiet and high - hearted Scottish poetess and dramatist, which occurred on the 23rd of February, in her eighty-ninth year.

Mrs. Shelley.

The death of Mrs. Shelley is noticed on the 15th of February. Her health had been long failing, and she died on the 1st, in her fifty-fourth year. The *Athenæum*, in referring to the dedication of 'The Revolt of Islam' by Shelley to his wife, says: "These beautiful stanzas were the utterances of a real affection and the confidences of a real companionship. Her [Mrs. Shelley's] first work—written during her residence abroad, and the only one, we believe, referable to the period of her married life—was 'Frankenstein,' which scared and startled the world by its preternatural power, promising further inspirations of a wild originality un-

known in English fiction. Measured against that romance, the most breathless terrors of Mrs. Radcliffe, or of the more coarsely horrible Maturin, are tame and real.....All Mrs. Shelley's writings have a singular elegance of tone,—but all of them a pervading melancholy.”

The *Athenæum* in reviewing Major Edwardes's work ‘A Year on the Punjab Frontier in 1848–9’ had complained (February 22nd) of “the orthographical innovations” in the volume, the whole of the old Asiatic names being spelt in a manner different from that in which they were commonly spelt: “Now, this is really a nuisance. For the last ten years nearly every writer on Indian questions has indulged himself with an entirely new scheme of orthography and pronunciation.” One example is given, the word Mohammedan, which “has been spelt in as many different ways, perhaps, as any Oriental word to which the Latin alphabet has been applied.....Major Edwardes has disfigured his pages by such a combination of letters as ‘Muhommudan’!” This brought a letter from William Francis Ainsworth on March 1st, in which he expresses regret at the severe animadversions in the *Athenæum*. “Surely, after so much has been done by the Royal Geographical and Syro-Egyptian Societies to introduce a common and correct orthography, we

Oriental
names.

Mr. Ains-
worth's letter.

ought not to have a dozen ways of spelling Mūhammūdān. The modern Oriental languages have only three vowels, *a*, *i*, and *u*; but they have these long and short. 'Muhommudan,' as proposed by Major Herbert B. Edwardes, is not so incorrect as the more common orthographies Mahometan and Mohammedan; in both of which we have two vowels unknown to the country of Mūhammūd himself. It is not enough, however, that the corrupt practice has crept in of using *e*'s and *o*'s in Oriental orthography; the Anglo-Indians delight in the still more glaring error of using two *ee*'s for the long *i*,—and two *oo*'s for the long *u*,—as Hindoostan for Hindūstān. It is true that the Easterns have widely different pronunciations for the same word among themselves, and Indian Arabs of Kāhīra (Cairo) and Mūghribīns or Western Arabs (*Moors*) vary as much as the difference between a very broad *u* and a very broad *o* in pronouncing the same word; but a correct orthography is generally to be obtained by a reference to the word as written, and not as pronounced.....Orthography is now so generally adopted by well-informed travellers going from this country and from Germany, where the same system is adopted by the Deutsche Morgenlandische Gesellschaft, to the East, that there is really no excuse for the rising men and linguists

of India differing so much in their orthography from their brethren at home." The *Athenæum*, although aware that what Mr. Ainsworth said was perfectly true, still contended that "while every writer thinks himself at liberty to adopt a variety in the spelling of proper names, the reader is confused or misled. At least until the true forms shall have been finally settled by authority, let not the success of the innovation be perilled by a loose application of a totally novel system to old and familiar things. Long usage in this instance, as in most others, is worth something,—and should give way only to completely digested and thoroughly authenticated forms of change."

On March 8th Mr. Eastwick writes that "the true forms have been finally settled by very competent authority.....It would be wrong to cut down an ally, still I cannot help hinting, that Mr. Ainsworth's Mūhammūd would look much better as Muhammad, and Kāhīra as Káhirah." The last sentence was a curious proof that "the authorities are not agreed." Then came "A Constant Reader," "slaughtering" Mr. Ainsworth ; followed by a reply from Mr. Ainsworth on the 15th of March, and the *Athenæum* sums up that writers "will find it more convenient to retain the orthographic forms which will convey their meaning to their

Mr. East-
wick's letter.

readers, than to drive about on a sea of neoterics the charts of which are so uncertain and incomplete."

Library at the
Charterhouse.

The library formed for the solace of old Brothers at the Charterhouse through the liberality of book-sellers and others now numbered nearly twelve hundred volumes, and on the 22nd of February it is stated that the Queen had presented eighty-six volumes of the *Quarterly Review*.

Gift by
the Queen.

Lambeth
Ragged
Schools.

The generosity of Mr. Beaufoy has been already referred to, and the number for the 8th of March announces the opening on the previous Wednesday of the Lambeth Ragged Schools, which he had built and endowed at a total cost of 14,000*l*. The expenses of tuition, 250*l*. annually, were to be raised by contributions. Mr. Beaufoy only lived to see this good work completed. He died on the 12th of July, aged sixty-six. His gifts to the City of London School alone amounted to 10,000*l*.

Death of
Mr. Beaufoy.

Hartley
Coleridge.

The poems of Hartley Coleridge, with a memoir of his life by his brother, are reviewed on the 15th of March. "Far better, one cannot but think, it would have been to have left the poet's life as it is written merely in his works, than to have written it over again as is done in this biography. Hartley Coleridge had no such place in the public eye as rendered it incumbent on an editor of his poems—above all when that

editor was a brother—to ‘draw his frailties from their dread abode.’ Over the sad incidents of his wasted life a veil had fallen which might well have been left undrawn.” In the later productions of Hartley Coleridge’s muse “we may discern an increase of power and finish. Not a few of these pieces are exquisite. They testify to the poet’s love of womanhood, of childhood, and of flowers, and to the innocence of his heart in its most passionate moods,—and plead earnestly against a disinterment of his faults. We read in every line the story of a mind, never reared to do battle with the world, seeking relief in communion with nature and with the humblest and simplest of her children from vain regrets and the sorrows that grow out of the unavoidable strife between disposition and destiny. Left alone, Hartley Coleridge might have been happy ; but he could not help comparing himself with others near and dear, and undervaluing himself by contrast. The poems are in this sense very affecting, and do much to justify his memory.”

Mr. Wyld’s Great Globe was in course of construction in Leicester Square, and an article on it by Prof. Hunt appears in the same number. “In looking on an ordinary globe a limited portion of the earth’s surface only comes under survey at once. It has therefore occurred to Mr. Wyld to figure the earth’s surface on the inside,

Mr. Wyld’s
Great Globe.

instead of the outside, of a sphere,—to give, in fact, an inverted globe,—enabling the observer to embrace at one view the physical features of the world which he inhabits. That surface which will be looked on as the inside coating of the sphere is actually that which exists on the exterior crust of the great globe itself. This very allowable departure from the truth, without misleading any one, admits of our obtaining a knowledge of the distribution of land and water over the whole planet which could not be in any other way secured.”

Its scale. The sphere was 65 feet in diameter, the scale being ten miles to one inch horizontal, and one mile to an inch vertical. “This enables the constructor to exhibit all the details of hill and valley, lake and river, with facility, and to produce an effective representation of the Earth:—which could not be done if the scales for height and for distance were alike. In looking at this vast model, the observer is at once struck with the distribution of land and water. He sees the great Oceans occupying nearly 150,000,000 square miles,—while the Old and New Continents and all the islands are estimated at but 60,000,000 square miles. The immense expanse of waters in the southern hemisphere is brought out in strong contrast with the wide-spread lands of the northern; and the great chains of mountains

which are remarkable features of the Earth's surface are shown to be ranged in a circle around the ocean and the Indian sea. The water-shed—or river courses—of every country is laid down, and the great areas drained are exhibited. This is, of course, connected with the elevations and depressions of the land:—all which are displayed in relative truthfulness, and with remarkable exactitude.....A model in relief speaks to the eye in a way which it is impossible for any map, or globe with a flat surface, to do.....We regard this model as the commencement of a new era in geographical instruction.” Additions are advised to show the geographical distribution of plants and animals, and to express in colour many of the great facts of geology, also to show how the waters of the ocean, warmed in the gulf of tropical Mexico, flow in obedience to a physical law towards our own shores, and even pass to the north of our islands, giving a temperate climate and fertility to a northern region of Norway which the southern districts do not possess. A few dots on the blue of the ocean would show all this. This great globe was made of some thousands of castings in plaster from the original models in clay, and it is suggested that models should be taken of sections so as to form raised maps for the use of schools.

Additions
suggested.

Robbery by means of chloroform. A good deal of excitement had been created by paragraphs in newspapers reporting cases of robbery by means of chloroform, and Lord Campbell introduced a clause in reference to it in his Bill for the better prevention of offences. This was certain to increase the alarm which was felt, and the *Athenæum* showed that such alarm was entirely groundless: "Any one who has seen chloroform administered is well aware that its action is not instantaneous. It is extremely difficult to give it to a person without his consent,—and it can then be done only by using force. This makes it useless to the robber. If a person is completely overpowered, he may be robbed without the chloroform; if he be not, he cannot be compelled to inhale it."

Photography on glass. Mr. Mayall while in Paris had met with M. Martens, who had discovered a new process by which photographic negatives that "transcend everything of the kind which the art has yet produced" are taken on glass, to be afterwards, by means of a lens, transferred to paper on an increased scale. This announcement is followed by an account of the process by Mr. Mayall, for the benefit of all practitioners, he having "set his face against all patenting of secrets which tend to the advancement of Art." Mr. Mayall described this invention as being "one of the most brilliant discoveries ever made in sun painting."

On the 22nd of March the opening of Owens College, Manchester, is noticed. This college, as is well known, was founded by means of a bequest of 100,000*l.* by John Owens, who died in 1846. The *Athenæum*, while anticipating that this new institution would be able to maintain a useful and honourable position in the north of England, had often spoken unmistakably in reference to the quarrel about religious teaching, introduced by the trustees against the express wishes of the founder. "That quarrel we must say is not satisfactorily ended. The Trustees have made no public declaration of their views; and they are now engaged in an appeal for additional funds without offering any guarantee for the future.....We see no course which can, or which ought to, satisfy the doubts that have been raised as to the integrity of the Trustees' intentions in so grossly mis-reading the will of the founder, except a distinct avowal on their part of present opinions and the execution of a deed tying them down for the future.....We entirely agree with the *Manchester Examiner and Times* that the present is the proper time to obtain the necessary guarantees."

Owens
College
opened.

The
*Manchester
Examiner.*

The 1st of May was to be notable for the throwing open of St. Paul's Cathedral to the public without the old tax of twopence each visitor, the change being mentioned on April 20th.

St. Paul's.

Lytton's
'Not so Bad
as We Seem.'

An advertisement of the Guild of Literature and Art in the number for May 3rd announces the first representation of Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton's new comedy, 'Not so Bad as We Seem; or, Many Sides to a Character,' at Devonshire House, on Friday, May 16th, before her Majesty the Queen and his Royal Highness Prince Albert. The tickets were five pounds each, this sum being regarded as a contribution to the fund.

Cocker's
'Arithmetic.'

It is stated on the same day that a copy of the first edition of Cocker's 'Arithmetic,' "Printed for Thomas Passenger, on London Bridge, 1678," had been sold by Messrs. Puttick & Simpson for 8*l.* 10*s.* "There is no copy in the British Museum; and the auctioneers' catalogue declares that only one other copy is known to exist. Dibdin failed to find any impression of it struck in the seventeenth century,—and mentions the thirty-second edition as the earliest he could meet with in his searches."

The
shoeblack
brigade.

The same number also states that "the directors of the Ragged Schools have organized a number of the boys who are in course of being prepared by them for emigration to the Colonies, into an industrial society which will recall an old feature of London streets to the present generation—the street shoe-blacks. In the neighbourhood of Hyde Park, and at

other convenient spots in the great thoroughfares, these ministers on soiled boots and weary feet are prepared to do their offices. They have a red uniform, and wear the badges of their calling."

It is announced on May 10th that Prince Albert will preside at the formal inauguration on the following Monday of the fine new building at length completed in Jermyn Street, St. James's, for the Museum of Practical Geology. A cloud was thrown over the event by the sudden death on the previous day of Mr. Richard Phillips, who had long filled the office of chemist and curator. He was in his seventy-fifth year, and the *Athenæum* on the 17th of May states that "at least fifty years of his life have been devoted to the pursuits of science..... In his 'History of Chemistry' Dr. Thompson says—'Of modern British analytical chemists, undoubtedly the first is Mr. Richard Phillips.'" All the chemical articles in the 'Penny Cyclopædia' were by Mr. Phillips.

Museum of
Practical
Geology
opened.

Death of
Richard
Phillips.

A review of 'The Life of Edward Baines, late M.P. for the Borough of Leeds,' by his son, Edward Baines, appears on the 31st of May: "The great work of Mr. Baines's life was, the improvement of the *Leeds Mercury* from a very low station to its present rank among provincial papers. The *Mercury* is one of the oldest of

Memoir of
Edward
Baines.

*Leeds
Mercury.*

newspapers,—dating back from the year 1718.In his capacity as director of the *Mercury*, Mr. Baines did many and valuable services to his county and the country:—none, perhaps, of more pressing necessity or requiring more tact and courage than his exposure of the infamous system of employing Government spies and *provocateurs* to foment disorders.”

‘Casa Guidi
Windows.’

‘Casa Guidi Windows: a Poem,’ by Elizabeth Barrett Browning, is reviewed on the 7th of June: “From the windows of her abode—the Casa Guidi, in Florence—Mrs. Browning witnessed several of those demonstrations, both popular and despotic, which commenced in Italy, as in Europe generally, during the eventful ‘48.’ The theme of her poem—as its title, thus explained, suggests—is, the late struggle for Italian freedom with especial reference to its development in Tuscany.”

Prince
Albert’s
model houses.

An account of Prince Albert’s model houses—most truly and worthily termed “model”—at the Cavalry Barracks in Hyde Park is contained in the same number: “One important improvement as regards their construction is, that the rooms are separated not by mere framed wood-work partitions, but by brick-work. The application of hollow bricks is another.....Instead of being painted, the doors are of stained deal,—which not only makes a

better appearance at first than ordinary painting such as could be afforded for houses of the kind would do, but requires no renovation afterwards. It is the same with the ceilings and walls, which being left to show a facing of glazed bricks, without plaster or other external coating, cannot exhibit decay by cracking or peeling off:—whereby, for dwellings of this class, decency of appearance is well consulted and provided for.....When all the good that may come out of this example is considered, these model houses are a noble contribution on the part of the Prince Consort to the Great Exhibition of 1851.”

Mr. Wyld's Great Globe having been opened, Opening of Wyld's Great Globe. the *Athenæum* states “that the general result, now that the whole is put together, fully realizes the expectations which we had formed from an examination of the sections.....Physical geography was never so well taught before. A globe like this once constructed,—it will be easy to lay down on its surface numerous important facts, and to show the operations of fixed laws in producing Nature's great phenomena.”

In the South Sanchie coal-mines, lying about seven miles from Stirling Castle, a fire, extend- Fire in the South Sanchie coal-mines. ing under and through an area of twenty-six acres, had been burning for more than thirty

years. Attempts had frequently been made to extinguish it, but without success. The *Athenæum* now announces that Mr. Goldsworthy Gurney had extinguished it, by means of a powerful stream of choke damp. "The experiment appears to have been entirely successful."

Richard
Lalor Sheil.

An obituary notice of Richard Lalor Sheil, who had died on the 25th of May, appears on the 14th of June: "With scholarly attainments, Mr. Sheil had more than ordinary literary abilities, exercised in the various walks of the Drama, Biography, and Journalism. His speeches were another kind of literary composition, and of themselves attracted to his name the attention of the reading public.....When Mr. Sheil was springing up to manhood, the Irish people's character was represented by a brilliant band of orators. In 1809, when he was at Trinity College, Dublin, the oratorical powers of Plunkett and of Bushe were in their highest perfection. Grattan and Sheridan, though on the wane, were still ornaments of St. Stephen's—and the fame of Burke was fresh in the minds of all." His four tragedies were all composed and acted before he attained his twenty-seventh year, and "showed much intensity of feeling and great command of language." There is "a marked improvement in 'Evadne' as compared with his earlier tragedies;

and, if Mr. Sheil had continued to write for the stage, it is probable that he must have achieved more abiding fame as a dramatist. From his existing plays, no one would have augured that he possessed that subtle analysis of motive and character which forms a strong feature in his vivid and masterly 'Sketches of the Irish Bar.'—As all who ever had social intercourse with him will testify, he possessed a species of sarcastic wit, bright and flashing as a rapier, that would have been invaluable to a writer of comedies.He shone in public life for thirty years, and won English applause and Irish admiration during the greater part of a career spent in the turmoil of politics. He acted the part of a tribune in the spirit of a gentleman,—and if his vehemence was startling, he never revolted by vulgarity. He never catered to the dominant taste of an illiterate rabble."

A review of 'The Roman State from 1815 to 1850,' by Luigi Carlo Farini, translated from the Italian by the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, opens the number for June 28th: "Although the style is by no means vivid or picturesque,—so ample is the narrative, and with such an earnest and sombre personal feeling does the author seem to recollect all he saw and was concerned in, that we are able in his pages to trace the progress of events in Rome more

Farini's
'Roman
State,'
translated by
W. E.
Gladstone.

surely, and to see the gradual workings of the Pope's mind with the advance of circumstances more intimately, than in any other history of the same facts with which we are acquainted. In this respect, however, the book has one defect:—it represents the struggle rather as it assumed shape in the minds of the official men who successively took charge of it than as it worked itself rudely but grandly forth in the passionate desires of the people."

Intramural
burials.

The Board of Health are taken to task on the 12th of July because they do not at once carry out the provisions of the new Act against intramural burials, and from the report of Mr. George, churchwarden of St. Ann's, Westminster, is quoted the fact that during the last 160 years there had been 1,920 interments in the vaults of that church, "of which there remain now only 490 coffins. It is supposed that the remaining 1,430 have been stolen for the lead of which the coffins were composed. In the open burial ground, three quarters of an acre in extent, there have been 13,788 interments during the last twenty years, and 110,240 during the last sixty years."

Death of
Dr. Lingard.

Dr. John Lingard died on the 18th of July, in his eightieth year, and an obituary is given on the 26th: "There is not a chapter throughout his many volumes in which to Protestant feelings

a Catholic bias is not manifest.....It is on this very account that the work was acceptable, and has been generally welcomed.....Dr. Lingard's work will be read and studied as the Roman Catholic version of an important story. We should be glad to have a Puritan history and a Quaker history, written as ably as Dr. Lingard's Roman Catholic history."

The collection of humming birds formed by Mr. Gould had been long known to scientific men as of surpassing beauty, and it was now on view at the Zoological Gardens in the new room built for its reception. A full description of it is given in the number for May 31st, and on the 23rd of August Mr. Gould's 'Monograph of the Trochilidæ; or, Humming Birds,' receives a long notice: "To no living naturalist is the science of Ornithology so deeply indebted as to Mr. Gould. We have only to appeal to the series of splendidly illustrated works which he has published to confirm the truth of our assertion. Any of the Governments of Europe, or of its learned and scientific Societies, might be proud to have given to the world the magnificent folios which Mr. Gould by his individual labour and exertion has produced within the last twenty years. These works—some of which are not completed—embrace descriptions and coloured illustrations of upwards of seven hun-

Gould's
collection of
humming
birds.

dred species of birds, from all parts of the world.Considerably more than half the species of birds described and figured by him have been first made known by his labours. The early bent of Mr. Gould's genius was towards Ornithology,—and a passion for stuffing and collecting birds developed itself into the character of their great describer and illustrator.”

Robert Owen. Although it was now nearly fifty years since Robert Owen had undertaken the management of the Lanark Mills, he was still petitioning Parliament for a commission of inquiry into his social and philosophical theories, and the *Athenæum* of July 26th says: “Scientific and practical men may smile at this proposal:—knowing that Mr. Owen's peculiar plans and ideas have been long before the world,—that the latter have undergone twenty years of popular discussion, and that the former have been practically tried in a score of places in England, Ireland and America, with the universal result of failure. But when these points are remembered to his discredit, it should not be forgotten that we owe to his fervour and philanthropy our present system of infant training,—and that to him in a great measure are to be ascribed the more humane and reasonable methods of teaching which distinguish our present schools from those of the last gene-

ration.....Mr. Owen gave a new value to 'kindness' as an element of training; and whenever he quits the scene he will leave the world gentler, and in some things wiser, than he found it." These remarks brought a long letter of corrections and explanations from Mr. Owen, which appeared on the 23rd of August.

The Moneyers ceased to be a part of the Mint establishment on the 11th of July, and the *Athenæum* on the 13th of September states that "the tenders for coining the public money, received in answer to more than one advertisement in the public papers, have one and all been at such high 'figures' that Government, on the recommendation of Sir John Herschel, has now undertaken to coin for the public on its own account. Many of the workmen employed by the Company of Moneyers have been retained by the new Master; and a new coinage is, we are told, to be put in hand forthwith.....It is understood that the old offices of 'Clerk of the Irons' and 'Chief Engraver' are, or will be, abolished, and that the title of 'Chief Coiner' will be given to the officer appointed in their stead. What the amount of compensation to the 'Moneyers' has been, we have not heard."

The
Moneyers.

The "great or small farm question" had been frequently discussed in the columns of the *Athenæum*, and the *Morning Chronicle*

"Grande
ou petite
culture."

had published a series of papers from a special correspondent, dispatched to France for the express purpose of investigating the state of French agriculture. The mission of this correspondent had now ended, and on October 4th the *Athenæum* quotes from the *Morning Chronicle* the conclusions arrived at:—

Conclusions. “ ‘Where spade-husbandry can be legitimately adopted, there the extreme sub-division of land loses much, if not all, of its evils. The reason is plain:—Spade-husbandry, while it pays the proprietor fair wages, also in certain cases develops in an economical manner the resources of the soil.’ This testimony is of great importance. On the general question of the *morcellement*, the writer is much less positive. He says:—‘Are small properties, then, in cases in which spade-husbandry cannot be economically applied injurious to the social and industrial interests of the community in which they exist? The following propositions appear to me to sum up what may be said on either side of the question.—1, Small landed holdings undoubtedly tend to produce an industrious population. A man always works hardest for himself. 2, Small landed holdings tend to breed a spirit of independence, and wholesome moral self-appreciation and reliance. On the other hand, 1, Small landed holdings, by breeding a poor and ignorant race

of proprietors, keep back agriculture, and injure the whole community of consumers. And, 2, Small landed holdings tend to grow smaller than it is the interest of their owners that they should become. Capital borrowed at usurious rates of interest is then had recourse to for the purpose of enlarging individual properties ; and the result is, the production of a race of involved, mortgaged, and frequently bankrupt properties. With these simply stated propositions, for which there is the amplest evidence, I take my leave of the subject.’ ”

The Criminal Tables for 1850 showed evidence of the diminution of crime, and could not be passed over without words of congratulation. On October 11th a summary of these statistics is given. The decrease shown in the number of executions since the beginning of the present century was very remarkable. “ Taking the five decennial periods from 1800 to 1850, the numbers stand :—802, 897, 686, 250, and 107. The greatest number of executions in any one year within the above fifty years, was in 1801,—when, suddenly doubling the average of the preceding years, the executions rose to 210. The last execution for a simple offence of theft was in 1834, when a convict was executed for stealing to the value of 5*l.* in a dwelling-house. The last execution for any description of theft was

Criminal
Tables for
1850.

in 1836, when 5 persons were executed for robbery and burglary. Since that year, with the exception of three executions for attempts to murder, the last of which was in 1841, murder has been the only offence for which the punishment of death has been inflicted."

Assyrian
discoveries :
Col.
Rawlinson.

A letter from Col. Rawlinson appeared on the 23rd of August relative to a discovery made by him—in an inscription upon an Assyrian bull—of an account of the war between Sennacherib and Hezekiah, thus establishing the identity of the king who built the great palace of Koyunjik with the Sennacherib of Scripture. "We have now a tangible starting-place for historical research, and shall (Col. Rawlinson asserts) make rapid progress in fixing the Assyrian chronology." These discoveries awakened the Government to the great historical value of the Assyrian sculptures, and on the 11th of October it is announced that a sum of 1,500*l.* had been placed at the disposal of Col. Rawlinson, who would proceed immediately to Bagdad and thence direct his explorations towards any quarter which might appear likely to yield important results.

The
"Diurnal
Reflector,"

It is also mentioned in the same number that "under the title of the 'Diurnal Reflector,' a French optician, M. Troupeau, has taken out a patent for a plate of tin silvered over so as to

have a highly reflective power. This plate is placed beneath any sky-light or window so as to receive on its face the natural light,—and at such angles as will project that light forward into any particular corner or passage that may need it.”

The obituary on the 25th of October includes the Hon. Mrs. Leigh, sister to Lord Byron. The Hon.
Mrs. Leigh. “Few readers of Byron will forget his affectionate recurrences to his sister,—made more touching from the bitterness of his memories towards all those whom he accused of contributing to the desolation of his home and the shattering of his household gods.”

The death of Dr. Gutzlaff in his forty-eighth Dr. Gutzlaff. year is also recorded. He was a Pomeranian by birth, and had been originally sent to Batavia, Singapore, and Siam by the Netherlands Missionary Society in 1827. His first visit to China was in 1831, and he spent the next two years in exploring portions of the coast which had not been visited by any European. In 1834 he was employed as an interpreter by the British Superintendency, and at a subsequent period promoted to the office of Chinese Secretary to the British Plenipotentiary and Superintendent of Trade. That position he held to the time of his death. “He was a man of great energy and zeal. His activity and imagination occa-

sionally got the better of his judgment; but he never ceased to labour for the advancement of that great and singular people who inhabit what he was in the habit of describing emphatically as 'our country.'"

Mr.
Drinkwater
Bethune.

Mr. Drinkwater Bethune, the judicial member of the Legislative Council of Bengal, had died at Calcutta in the previous August, and the *Athenæum* says: "He particularly distinguished himself by his labours in the cause of female native education; and through his instrumentality several extensive schools for the education of Hindoo female children have been established at Calcutta."

Telegraphic
communica-
tion with
France.

The submarine telegraph between Dover and Calais was now completed throughout, and in the Gossip of November 15th it is mentioned that on the previous Thursday it had been opened to the general public.

Basil
Montagu.

The death at Boulogne on the 27th of November of Basil Montagu, Q.C., "the learned editor of Lord Bacon—but to be known hereafter more enduringly as the friend of Coleridge," is noted on the 6th of December. "Mr. Montagu was the son of Lord Sandwich (Jemmy Twitcher) by the unfortunate Miss Ray, killed in the Piazza of Covent Garden, in the year 1779, in a fit of frantic jealousy by the Rev. Mr. Hackman. The murder has been com-

memorated in a Grub Street Ballad, which Sir Walter Scott was fond of quoting.—

‘A Sandwich favourite was this fair,
And her he dearly lov’d ;
By whom six children had, we hear ;
This story fatal prov’d.

A clergyman, O wicked one,
In Covent Garden shot her ;
No time to cry upon her God,
It’s hop’d He’s not forgot her.’

Mr. Montagu was a member of Gray’s Inn ; and is said to have selected that Inn of Court from his early idolatry (such we may truly call it) for the works and even character of Lord Bacon.....His knowledge of our early literature was extensive ; and his volumes of selections from Taylor, Barrow and others were made with taste and learning.—He was in his 82nd year.”

On December 6th it is also announced that the case between the Commissioners of Inland Revenue and the proprietors of the *Household Narrative of Current Events* has been decided in favour of the latter. “Three of the four Judges decided against the inference that the *Household Narrative* is a newspaper within the terms of the statute:—Baron Parke being the dissentient.”

*Household
Narrative
of Current
Events.*

Much discussion had taken place during the previous eighteen months on the principle of limited partnership liability, “or as it is called

Limited
partnership
liability.

on the Continent—Partnership *en Commandite*,” and on December 13th the *Athenæum* suggests that “great care and ingenuity would be required in framing the act of Parliament under which the *commandite* system might be introduced into this country.” “A *commandite* partnership would limit the liability of what are called the ‘sleeping’ partners to the amount of their declared interest in the affairs of the firm,—the acting or managing partner remaining liable, quite properly, to the whole extent of his fortune.”

The supply
of gold.

“A Gossip about Gold” is given on December 20th. It was estimated that the supply during the year had been fifteen millions from California, four from Russia, and one from Australia, making the very considerable sum of twenty millions sterling. “It is by no means improbable that in 1852 the production of gold may reach some extravagant and almost fabulous amount; for, according to the late advices—and they seem to be authentic—the extent of the production seems to be a question rather of labour than of abundance.” The effect of the large supply of gold upon the French coinage was most remarkable. The returns showed that “while the coinage of gold in France was less than half a million sterling for some years previous to 1848, it rose in that year to one and a half million sterling,—in 1849 to two millions,—in 1850 to

three and a half millions,—and in the first ten months of 1851 to no less than ten and a quarter millions.”*

Sir John Franklin continued to occupy a large share of attention, and on January 25th it is announced that the mail of the 20th had brought news from Behring's Straits of Capt. M'Clure, dated H.M.S. Investigator, Kotzebue Sound, July 27th, 1850. They had passed the Aleutian Islands on the 20th of July. The only detriment had been the very dense fogs, which had “rendered the navigation of the islands exceedingly nervous work.” It is also stated that Capt. Collinson, of the Enterprise, although he had sailed from the Sandwich Islands some days before the Investigator, was “so impeded in his progress by the dangerous navigation, that he found it perfectly impossible to get into the ice,” and had been forced to return to Hong Kong to pass the winter. On the 22nd of February appears a letter from Capt. M'Clure to Sir George Back, dated Kotzebue Sound, July 28th, 1850. The letter showed that he was determined to do all in his power to carry out, at any risk, the great object of his expedition. The little ship Prince Albert had sustained no injury by her remarkable voyage of the previous year, and on

Search for
Sir John
Franklin.

Captain
M'Clure.

The Prince
Albert.

* The annual production of gold has dropped a little below twenty millions sterling.

the 15th of March it is stated that Lady Franklin has organized measures for again equipping the vessel, with the view of exploring that part of the Arctic Sea which she had failed to penetrate the previous year, the command to be entrusted to Mr. Kennedy. On the 10th of May regret is expressed that Commander Pullen's "intended Expedition to the north of Banks' Land from Cape Bathurst has been entirely unsuccessful. The ice was so hummocky and heavy that it was impossible to reach even Cape Bathurst."

The *Athenæum* was able to record on the 13th of September that "authentic intelligence has been received by the Admiralty of Sir John Franklin's Expedition, which confirms beyond doubt the safety of the ships Erebus and Terror during the winter of 1845-6." This was the

Discovery of
encampment.

discovery by Capts. Ommanney, Penny, and De Haven, of the United States expedition; of the remains of the encampment of Sir John Franklin's expedition near Cape Riley.

Return of
Capt. Austin.

The return of Capt. Austin calls forth severe criticism in the numbers for October 4th and 11th: "Nothing can justify Capt. Austin's presence just now in England. Just enough has been done by the Expedition under his command to mark painfully the import of what he has omitted to do. To a great extent the Expedition has been thrown away." In striking

contrast to this were the enterprise and perseverance shown by the United States expedition under Commander De Haven, who—undeterred by the rough treatment that his ships had experienced during their extraordinary drift in the ice, when they had been carried by the ice not only through Barrow's Straits into Lancaster Sound, but down Baffin's Bay to a point south of Cape Walsingham, a distance exceeding 1,050 miles—determined to renew his search for our countrymen. “With this view, he pushed to the northward; and succeeded in reaching Upper Melville Bay,—where his ships again became hemmed in by ice. From this he was not liberated until the 19th of August; at which time the season was so far advanced that it was impossible for him to proceed. He, therefore, was reluctantly compelled to return home. During the imprisonment of the ships in the ice, the crews suffered intensely from cold. In November, the mercury fell below zero, the bedding froze in every apartment, and the coffee and soup became congealed as soon as taken off the fire. When the ships entered Baffin's Bay, the ice frequently lifted them by the stern as high as six feet. The men had their knapsacks constantly prepared to leave the ships,—and they were three weeks without taking off their clothes. It was at this time that

United States
expedition :
Commander
De Haven.

the scurvy broke out,—attacking all the crews, including the officers. With such a series of perils and disasters, it reflects great credit on Commander De Haven and Dr. Kane that they conquered the terrible disease and brought the Expedition home without the loss of a man.”

Dr. Kane. It is announced on the 25th of October that the Admiralty have decided on renewing the search for Sir John Franklin and his party in the ensuing spring, and the *Athenæum* says that “the history of the searching Expeditions leads us to believe that too much latitude has been given to the commanders. In the case of Sir James Ross’s Expedition, it does not appear that his instructions rendered the search of Wellington Channel at all imperative.....This want of judgment is doubly vexatious when it is considered that a party from Sir James Ross’s ships was at one time within a few miles of Cape Riley, where traces of Sir John Franklin have now been found. Had that party struck those traces—which would undoubtedly have been the case had positive orders been issued to search Wellington Channel—three years of anxiety might have been avoided, and it is probable that the fate of our missing mariners would at this day be no longer a problem.”

The number for the 30th of November, 1850, contained a review of a book entitled “Personal

Adventures during the late War of Independence in Hungary. Comprising an Account of her Missions under the Orders of Kossuth to the different Posts of the Hungarian Army during the Contest. By the Baroness von Beck."

The case
of the
Baroness
von Beck.

This work attracted much attention as being one of the most lively and interesting narratives relating to the Hungarian struggle. The author was represented to have acted as an intimate friend and confidential agent of Kossuth and to have rendered great service to the cause. The account given by the writer of her own antecedents was that she was the widow of a Hungarian nobleman of liberal politics who had been killed, fighting heroically on the barricades of Vienna, on the 18th of October, 1848. The work was published by Mr. Bentley, and bore every mark of authenticity. The lady had been received into society as the Baroness von Beck, the friend of Kossuth. In August, 1851, while on a visit to Birmingham, accompanied by a young Hungarian, Constant Derra, who passed for her secretary, she introduced herself to influential persons, and was received with much kindness. She made proposals for the publication of another work on Hungary, and obtained subscriptions to the amount of nearly 100*l*. Suddenly suspicions arose as to the character of the supposed baroness,

and on Friday, the 29th of August, she and her secretary were arrested on a charge of obtaining money under false pretences. The examination was fixed to take place on the following day before the mayor. On the morning of that day the court was opened, and the prisoners were sent for. In a few minutes, however, to the horror of all present, the superintendent of police returned with the information that the female prisoner was dead. On leaving the prison to walk to the court-room she had shown signs of faintness, and on reaching the ante-room of the court she literally lay down and expired.

The *Athenæum* of September 6th gives the following account of the trial:—"When the Court had somewhat recovered from this shock, the case of the surviving prisoner was proceeded with. From the evidence tendered by Mr. Toulmin Smith, barrister, who had gone down from London to conduct the prosecution, and by Mr. Paul Hajnik, late Hungarian Minister of Police under Kossuth, who was examined in court—it appeared that the pretended Baroness was in reality a Hungarian woman of low rank and quite illiterate, who had acted as an inferior spy in the Hungarian service at one period of the war, when she went by the name of Racidula. In this capacity she might have once or twice

The baroness
arrested.

Her death.

Known by
the name of
Racidula.

seen Kossuth; but the whole story of her intimacy with him and with the other Hungarian leaders, and of her missions to and fro in Hungary, was a piece of pure fabrication.—It appeared also that, since coming to England, the pretended Baroness had been in the service of the recently established foreign branch of the English police force, as a spy and informer,—supplying the police with facts, or alleged facts, relative to the German and other foreign refugees now in this country. In this capacity she had received 5*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* a-week for two or three weeks. It likewise appeared that she or her agents had made an attempt to extort money from M. Pulszky, the representative of Kossuth in this country, by threatening to restore in a German edition of her work certain passages against that gentleman which had been deleted in the English edition.—It is further most curious that as regards the other prisoner, Constant Derra, the evidence went to show that, although a Hungarian, and sitting behind the scenes, he was himself a dupe.....This connexion, according to his own statement, was purely accidental.He was accordingly discharged."

The *Athenæum* insists that the mystery which surrounds this strange case shall be cleared up, and asks: "Who wrote the Baroness von Beck's book? As she is alleged to be totally

Who wrote
the book?

illiterate, it could not be written by her. Mr. Toulmin Smith, it appears, can solve this mystery:—for he stated to the Court that ‘it was known who the writer was, though for certain reasons he did not now wish to state his name.’ The public has a right to specific information on this point.” Then came the question why “an imposture so patent, as one would think, to many Hungarians residing in this country, was not denounced sooner.....By M.

M. Pulszky. Pulszky’s own admission, Mr. Bentley accepted the *soi-disante* Baroness’s book ‘in consequence of what he [M. Pulszky] had said,’—and we have not a word of warning against the Baroness until some time after she had attempted to extort a harvest out of M. Pulszky himself..... The notion of paid spies in the service of a foreign branch of the English police is not comfortable to the British mind ; and, though people know that such things exist, it makes us start to find the fact breaking out in this way.”

The subject is followed up on the 13th. During the week light had been thrown on the case, suggesting the possibility of the integrity of the baroness. M. Constant Derra de Moroda, her alleged secretary, had addressed a letter to the *Times*, “in which he *proves* that Mr. Paul Hajnik — on whose testimony mainly the Baroness has been condemned—stated on the

same occasion that which is entirely untrue of himself (M. Derra)." Mr. Bentley, in a letter to the *Times*, gave the following account of the manner in which the book came into his hands :
 "At the commencement of June, 1850, the Baroness von Beck called upon me to propose the publication of the narrative of her adventures in the late Hungarian revolution, which she assured me would be countenanced by Lord Dudley Stuart, from whom she added that she had received permission to dedicate it.....A few days after this interview his Lordship's Secretary called to satisfy himself on her behalf that the agreement she had entered into with me was advantageous to her; and after examining the memorandum, expressed his satisfaction at what he termed my liberality." Mr. Bentley had also written to the *Athenæum*: "In the *Athenæum* of the 6th inst. you ask,—'Who wrote the Baroness von Beck's book?' I reply,—the Baroness von Beck herself. If Mr. Toulmin Smith can give a better answer, I trust he will not hesitate to do so."

Mr. Bentley's
explanations.

The first article on the 11th of October is on M. Constant Derra de Moroda's 'Refutation of the Charge of Imposition and Fraud,' published by Mr. Bentley. In the following year the matter was taken up by the House of Lords, and the *Athenæum* of June 5th reports Lord

Constant
Derra.

1852.
Discussion in
the House of
Lords.

Beaumont to have said: "The whole affair, from first to last, appeared to him to be so monstrous that he scarcely knew whether to condemn most the friends of M. Pulszky, who gave their authority to commence proceedings, or Mr. Toulmin Smith for the manner in which he fulfilled the duty imposed on him, or the magistrate, Mr. James, who issued the warrant, or the police officer who executed it in the barbarous way which he had related." Lord Aberdeen declared that in his opinion "the case was worthy of Madagascar, and was incredible in any civilized country." The Earl of Carlisle, the Lord Chancellor, and the Duke of Argyll all spoke in the same strain, the last named asking a question "which we have asked again and again. His grace 'wanted to know what had become of the unfortunate woman's papers, which had been delivered up to the prosecutor, although the only living friend of the deceased had no charge made against him? He thought it very extraordinary that Mr. Smith should detain the papers.'"

Action for
false imprisonment.

An account is given on the 7th of August of M. Constant Derra's action against Mr. George Dawson, Mr. Tyndall, and others for false imprisonment. "The defendants, it is true, have escaped the legal consequences of their acts,—but their victory is of the kind that is more

crushing than defeat. They have escaped expressly by means of their own wrong,—and ride for the present clear of the material penalty of their offence on the very irregularity which is a part of it. Their proceedings were so illegal, so contrary to rule, that the law cannot lay hold of them.” Baron Alderson could not refrain from pronouncing in open court that “the proceedings connected with the depositions and the informations were of the most disgraceful and irregular character.”

On the 8th of January, 1853, the *Athenæum* refers to a letter placed in its hands from General Haug, who had been brought forward to testify against the lady’s right to the name of Von Beck, and against the story of her husband’s death. The particular fact against which the General testified came to nothing, for he only denied that any field officer of the name of Von Beck fell on October 18th, 1848, on the barricades of Vienna. The lady had written in her book that he fell on the 28th. General Haug on his return from abroad writes: “I feel the greatest horror against those who persecuted that woman.”

1853.
Letter from
General
Haug.

On January 29th an article appears on certain documents that had been submitted to the editor referring to the real place of Mr. Toulmin Smith in the transaction, and the *Athenæum* comes to the conclusion that “Mr. Smith is an

Mr. Toulmin
Smith.

earnest, and even passionate, believer in the imposture of Madame Von Beck,—and was an eager candidate for her exposure. But to the fatal proceedings taken against that unhappy lady in the dark, he was no party.....In any case the action prescribed by Mr. Toulmin Smith involved publicity as an element, and would have left the Baroness free to answer for herself."

The following letters, forwarded to the *Athenæum* by Mr. Newman, appear on the 19th of February:—

Letter from
Francis
Pulszky.

"34, St. Petersburg Place, Bayswater, Feb. 9.

"My dear Newman,—You know it has been my resolve not to notice the many calumnies of your press against me in the matter of the so-called Baroness Von Beck. Nevertheless, at your desire, and to gratify you, I make the following distinct declarations, and give you authority to use them when and how you please. *She was arrested without my knowledge, without my having been consulted, and while I did not know it to be possible by English law.* How I behaved to her, while I knew she was reviling me, but was not yet certain that she was an impostor, you can to some extent testify.

"I am, my dear Newman, your friend,

"FRANCIS PULSZKY."

Letter from
Francis
W. Newman.

"I am able abundantly to confirm, what Mr. Pulszky hints in the last sentence of the preceding letter,—his discriminating, truthful, considerate and charitable conduct towards Mrs. Baroness Beck, while he knew of her slanders against him, and at a time when his bad word would have most sensibly affected her daily comforts.

On this subject I am able, if ever it be required, to give evidence on oath which would satisfy all bystanders of the exemplary conduct of my accomplished and honourable friend ; but until some definite charge be produced against him, his anonymous assailants give no opportunity of effectively replying.

“ FRANCIS W. NEWMAN.

“ 7, Park Village East, Feb. 12.”

“ Now, if Mr. Newman reckons the *Athenæum* in the number of what he calls M. Pulszky’s ‘anonymous assailants,’ we beg distinctly and indignantly to reject the title. In the first place, the *Athenæum* is *not* anonymous in any proper sense of the word. It is in every way—morally and legally—willingly, too—responsible for whatever statements it may make,—as it is literarily for any opinions which it may express. In the next place,—in the case in question, it made no statements—for it had no knowledge which might enable it to do so. It is precisely the knowledge which it had not of which it has been in anxious search all through its agitation of this subject. A matter came legitimately and inevitably before the *Athenæum*, by its literary side,—with certain parties evidently in relation of some kind to it,—and somewhere a terrible responsibility in respect of it. To get at the heart of a mystery which it could not be true to its office and leave unassailed—and to arrive, if possible, at the true relations to the facts of the several parties *primâ facie* implicated—has been

The
Athenæum
accepts re-
sponsibility.

the sole object of all the articles on the subject of the Baroness Von Beck which have appeared in the columns of the *Athenæum*."

Derra obtains
800*l.* damages.

The final result of this long inquiry is given on the 6th of August, 1853. Constant Derra, having obtained witnesses from Hungary and other parts to prove that "neither he nor the unfortunate Madame Von Beck were impostors: that the latter was what she professed to be, a lady of title, and that she had legal claim to the title of Baroness," brought a second action for false imprisonment at the Warwickshire Summer Assizes, when a special jury awarded him 800*l.* damages. The *Athenæum* says: "This verdict of a jury gives a legal sanction to the moral indignation with which most men have looked back on the circumstances that attended the unhappy lady's death."

CHAPTER IX.

THE ATHENÆUM, 1852.

THE new year opened with great promise for the world of literature, but after the first few months there was such an unusual dearth of new books that the *Athenæum* had to look abroad for subjects for review, only to find greater barrenness there than at home. Yet 1852 will be remembered as the year of the unlocking of the muniment chests at Wotton and at Stowe, while among the prominent works were the Rockingham memoirs by the Earl of Albemarle, the memoirs of Thomas Moore by Lord John Russell, Thackeray's 'Esmond,' Charles Dickens's 'Bleak House,' the first volume of Lord Holland's 'Memoirs of the Whig Party,' the life of Jeffrey by Lord Cockburn, the memoirs of Margaret Fuller Ossoli, and Miss Mitford's 'Recollections.' This was also the year in which 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' by Harriet Beecher Stowe, was published, and a reprint from the tenth American edition was issued in a cheap form in May in order

to secure for it a large circulation in England, and thus increase the sympathy already felt for the slave.

‘The
Grenville
Papers.’

The first two volumes of ‘The Grenville Papers,’ edited by W. J. Smith, form the subject of two articles written by Mr. Dilke, the first appearing on January 17th and the second in the week following. The volumes are pronounced to be “of a class and character always welcome:—no matter whether lively or dull, of greater or of less value,—they contain facts. It is quite true that the facts to be found in contemporary letters and memoirs are often distorted by prejudice or coloured by passion; but this is a known condition,—and we are therefore prepared to make those reasonable allowances in each case which must be made in all, and to submit questionable points to the test of like authorities.—The volumes contain the letters from and to Lord Temple and his brother George Grenville — with the private diaries of the latter—and extend from 1742 to the close of 1764. They are to be followed, as we understand the preface, by other volumes:—the whole extending over a period of thirty or more years. Such a work must be acceptable. It must throw light, more or less, on a hundred obscure points of interest; and especially on the last few glorious years of George the Second

and the first ten inglorious years of George the Third,—with which, whether in the ministry or in the opposition, the names of Pitt, Temple, and Grenville are for ever associated.”

The ‘Memoirs of the Marquis of Rockingham’ Rockingham memoirs. were also reviewed by Mr. Dilke, three long articles being devoted to them, on January 24th and February 14th and 21st. These memoirs are “illustrated with original letters and papers, not only from the archives of the Fitzwilliam family, but from those of the Albemarle, Hardwicke, Richmond, and of Mr. Lee, attorney-general to the Rockingham administration.” These, with the treasures from Stowe and Wotton, revealed “long buried secrets, out of which history may be written. Heretofore we have all been, more or less, groping in the dark, or led by blind guides, and often astray by false lights. Now, we have such a mass of authentic information that no careful writer can wander very far from the truth.”

Mention is made on the 3rd of January of a public dinner given to Mr. Thomas Spencer, Thomas Spencer, the discoverer of electrotyping. “the discoverer of the Electrotpe,” by his friends in Liverpool, on his leaving that place, and of the presentation of a testimonial in the shape of a purse containing 200 guineas.

A suggestion is made on the 24th that a post office should be established at each of the great Post offices at railway stations.

railway stations in London. "Nothing but the inertia of office could have withheld this boon from the public so long."

The
statistics of
coffee.

In the same number an interesting paper read by Mr. John Crauford before the Statistical Society, 'On the Statistics of Coffee,' is reported: "The *Coffea Arabica* of botanists is a native of Abyssinia, where it is found in both the wild and the cultivated state; and was brought from thence to Arabia in comparatively very recent times (1450):—it was not known to the Arabs therefore for more than 800 years after the time of Mohammed, and was introduced only between 40 and 50 years before the discovery of America..... A Turkish merchant of the name of Edwards brought the first bag of coffee to England, and his Greek servant made the first dish of English coffee in 1652." The quantity of coffee consumed in Great Britain and Ireland in 1850 was shown to be 31,226,840 lb., or 1·13 lb. per head of the population, and as compared with that of tea to be less than one-half. The actual amount paid by the consumer for tea was 12,000,000*l.*, while that for coffee was only 3,000,000*l.*

Thomas
Moore.

Thomas Moore died at Sloperton Cottage, near Devizes, on the 26th of February, in his seventy-second year, and on the 6th of March a long obituary notice is given: "Moore was a poet in print while yet a schoolboy; 'The

Anthologia,' a Dublin magazine, containing in its columns for 1793 two short pieces of verse from—as the editor was pleased to call him in print—‘our esteemed correspondent T. M.’ The same publication contains a Sonnet to his schoolmaster, Mr. Samuel Whyte, written in his fourteenth year, and evincing slender promise of future excellence.” Moore was sent to London to enter himself at the Middle Temple, but unfortunately for his “future success at the Bar, the same bag which conveyed his law books to the Temple carried his translation of ‘Anacreon’ to a London publisher.....The reputation won by the ‘Anacreon’ among the friends of its author was advanced with some, and risked with others, by his next publication, entitled ‘The Poetical Works of the late Thomas Little,’ —printed in 1802.” In 1803 he was appointed Appointment at Bermuda. by Lord Moira’s interest to a Government office in Bermuda, and, having found a deputy to perform his duties, visited New York and other important towns in North America, returning after an absence of fourteen months. He commemorated his residence in Bermuda by the volume of ‘Odes and Epistles,’ which drew on him the wrath of the *Edinburgh* reviewers, the result being the duel at Chalk Farm with Mr. Jeffrey.*

* See *ante*, p. 210.

‘Lalla Rookh.’ In May, 1817, ‘Lalla Rookh’ made its appearance in a quarto volume with a dedication to Samuel Rogers. It was published by Messrs. Longman, who paid Moore three thousand pounds for the copyright on the day of publication. “While the poet was flushed with the bays and money obtained by his new poem..... he received the painful news that his deputy at Bermuda had involved him to the amount of some six thousand pounds.....At this period he found the constancy of his friends ; many—and those of the longest standing—stepping forward at once with money to assist him. He was, however, feeling confidence in his own genius, not too much depressed,—and wisely refusing all pecuniary assistance from others, he had at once recourse to his pen and his publishers to meet the demands upon him. What money was necessary to be sent was sent at once—and an arrangement was effected by which the debt was lessened, and the whole defalcation in a short time made good.....His next publications were, ‘The Fudge Family in Paris’ and ‘Tom Crib’s Memorial to Congress,’ one of the happiest of his productions in that vein of satire of which Anstey was the first to give us a favourable example. To these succeeded ‘Rhymes on the Road’ and ‘The Loves of the Angels.’” The ‘Life of Sheridan’ in 1825 was

Loss through
his deputy.

followed in 1827 by 'The Epicurean,' dedicated to Lord John Russell, his fellow traveller in France and Italy. In 1830 he published his life of Byron. For this work Moore received from Murray two thousand guineas, two thousand copies being printed of the first edition. "In his person he was very diminutive; his eyes were bright and his lip expressive. His voice, somewhat rough in conversation, was all sweetness when he sang..... 'There is,' says Sir Walter Scott (it is an entry in his Diary), 'a manly frankness, with perfect ease and good breeding, about him which is delightful. Not the least touch of the poet or the pedant. His countenance is plain, but the expression so very animated, especially in speaking or singing, that it is far more interesting than the finest picture could have rendered it.'"

His personal appearance.

Lord Cockburn's 'Life of Lord Jeffrey. With a Selection from his Correspondence,' receives long notices on March 20th and 27th: "The letters of Lord Jeffrey will heighten the respect that attaches to his name. It is only in these that his fine nature can now be thoroughly understood..... The first of the volumes contains his biography by Lord Cockburn, written with graceful ease and in a manly style. The second comprises two hundred and eleven letters, such as are rarely met with..... Throughout all this

Lord Cockburn's 'Life of Jeffrey.'

delightful correspondence do we find the love of nature and the display of the purest and best affections. The perusal of Jeffrey's letters is calculated at once to please the mind and to instruct and improve the heart. The cordial humanity that is their inspiration affects us with more power from its thoroughly genuine and real character."

Trench on
the study of
words.

The five lectures delivered by Trench 'On the Study of Words' receive favourable notice on the 3rd of April: "We cannot let this little volume pass without strongly recommending it to general notice.....Teachers of all grades will find it an invaluable aid both to their own private improvement and the instruction of their scholars."

Auto-
biography of
William
Jerdan.

The first volume of 'The Autobiography of William Jerdan,' editor of the *Sun* newspaper from 1812 to 1817, and of the *Literary Gazette* from 1817 to 1850, is reviewed on the 8th of May: "Mr. Jerdan has been a servant in the cause of literature for nearly half a century,—and, as we here find, his recollections of men and events go back to a period when persons now in their prime were unborn."

John
Dalrymple.

The death of the eminent surgeon Mr. John Dalrymple is also recorded on the 8th of May. Mr. Dalrymple died at the premature age of forty-nine, but had "crowded a large amount

of usefulness into, and gathered a large amount of fame from, his short career. Distinguished in other branches of his science,—his own peculiar department, as is well known, was that of the human eye. As an operator in diseases of this delicate organ he has probably left behind him no equal." Among his other claims to be remembered was that of being one of the founders of the College of Chemistry.

Mr. J. O. Halliwell's prospectus of a new edition of Shakspeare is referred to on the 10th of July: "It is intended to be in twenty folio volumes, corresponding in size with the first collective edition of 1623,—and to contain numerous facsimiles from that imprint. Each play, as Mr. Halliwell states, will be accompanied 'by every kind of useful literary and antiquarian illustration, extending to complete copies of all tales, novels, or dramas on which it is founded, and entire impressions of the first sketches in the cases of "The Merry Wives of Windsor," "Hamlet," &c.' Mr. Fairholt is to superintend the illustrative department.....The twenty volumes are to cost forty guineas—to be issued in six years—and to be limited to 150 copies. Mr. Halliwell's library is rich in Shaksperian literature,—and he has obtained the use of other well-known collections, especially those of Lord Londesborough for the anti-

J. O. Halli-
well's new
edition of
Shakspeare.

quarian matter.—The plan is a bold one,—and ‘protests.....much.’ It will be for Mr. Halliwell to prove himself equal to the occasion.”

William
Scrope.

William Scrope, “author of two good books, ‘Days of Deer Stalking’ and ‘Days and Nights of Salmon Fishing,’” died on July 20th at his house in Belgrave Square, in his eighty-first year, and an obituary notice is given of him on the 24th. The same number also announces

John Painter
Vincent.

the death of John Painter Vincent, for many years one of the surgeons of St. Bartholomew’s Hospital, who had twice filled the office of President of the Royal College of Surgeons. In 1847 he published “the results of his observations on some of the parts of surgical practice, with an inquiry into the claims that surgery might be supposed to have for being classed as a science.”

Cholera
Report,
1848-49.

The Registrar-General’s ‘Report on the Mortality of Cholera in England, 1848-49,’ is the subject of an article on the 11th of September: “The deaths from cholera in England were 331 in 1838; 394 in 1839; 702 in 1840; 443 in 1841; 1,620 in 1842; and 53,293 from cholera, and 18,887 from diarrhœa, in 1849. The epidemic broke out at Gloucester in May; in the summer it advanced rapidly. In all England cholera was fatal to 7,570 persons in July, 15,872 in August, and 20,379 in September. The mor-

tality was highest in the thirty-sixth week of the year, when the epidemic destroyed 7,148 lives. On Wednesday, September 5, it was fatal to 1,120, and on the following day to 1,121 persons. On these two days the epidemic was at its highest point. The decline of the mortality was more rapid than its increase ; while it was fatal to 20,379 persons in September, 4,654 died of it in October, 844 in November, and 163 in December.....We cannot pass over the great practical fact which the inquiry into the mortality of cholera elicited. We allude to the influence of slight degrees of elevation. In the vast population of London this is very apparent. In the part of Lambeth parish near the level of the Thames, the cholera, in 10,000 inhabitants, destroyed 163 ; at Kennington, 8 feet high, 90 ; at Brixton, 66 feet high, 55 ; and at Norwood, the highest sub-district of the parish, where the inhabitants are at least 128 feet above the river, only 5 in 10,000. This was not accidental. Elevation within these moderate limits operated with the regularity of a general law, and the influence of elevation was felt all over the kingdom. Everywhere the low cities suffered."

The same number contains a notice of the opening of the Manchester Free Library, being the first great people's library established in England. In support of the object all classes

Manchester
Free
Library.

combined. Twenty-six manufacturing or merchant firms subscribed 100*l.* each; the overseers of Manchester, who had a fund for public purposes, subscribed 2,000*l.*; while a voluntary subscription among the working people yielded a sum of about 800*l.* as the contributions of twenty thousand persons employed in various industrial establishments. With 12,823*l.* thus collected an excellent building was purchased and 21,000 volumes placed on the shelves.

Mr. Charles Sutton, the chief librarian, in March, 1886, kindly supplies the following information:—"The institution had as its first librarian the late Mr. Edward Edwards, author of the 'Memoirs of Libraries.' It has been remarkably successful, and now contains in the aggregate nearly 180,000 volumes. Of these, 80,000 volumes form the reference library, and 100,000 are placed in the six district lending libraries. The number of books consulted or borrowed during the year 1885 reached the great total of 1,381,000."

George
Richardson
Porter.

The death on the 3rd of September of Mr. George Richardson Porter, author of 'The Progress of the Nation,' is also recorded on September 11th. One of Mr. Porter's first essays in the way of authorship was an anonymous article on life assurance, written for 'The Companion to the Almanac.' This article led to his

introduction to Charles Knight, and it was not long before the publisher was enabled to do his author a good turn. Lord Auckland, while President of the Board of Trade, offered Mr. Knight the task of arranging and digesting for the Board the mass of information contained in Blue-books and Parliamentary Returns—"in short, if he would do for the Board of Trade what Mr. Porter has since done so well, and what Mr. Fonblanque continues to do for the same office with the same accuracy and success." Mr. Knight hesitated. The engagement, should he accept it, must necessarily interfere in a great measure with his business as a publisher. Upon his declining, Lord Auckland asked him if he knew of a person fit for the new office. Mr. Knight named Mr. Porter, and to him the appointment was given. The immediate cause of Mr. Porter's death was a gnat's sting on his knee, which produced mortification.

The death of Dr. William Macgillivray, Professor of Natural History and Lecturer on Botany in Marischal College and University, Aberdeen, is also mentioned on September 11th. The review of the concluding volumes of his 'History of British Birds' was in type, ready to appear in the following week. "The Doctor would seem to have lived on, sustained by the work which he had in hand,—and died at once when it was ac-

Dr. William
Macgillivray.

complished. Turning to the concluding sentences of the 'History,' we find in this last literary message to the living some affecting words. The Doctor is evidently winding up his literary accounts for death,—which he speaks of as 'before his eyes.' There is in his parting address a sort of triumphant tone that a work 'of which he had scarce hoped to see the completion' is finished—saddened by the knowledge that it is finished *only* in time." The review on September 18th thus closes: "It is some consolation to the friends of Dr. Macgillivray to know that his last scientific bequest will more than confirm the honourable place which he already held among the contributors to natural history."

Death of
the Duke of
Wellington.

The sudden death of the Duke of Wellington at Walmer Castle, on Tuesday, the 14th of September, took the nation by surprise, for although he had attained his eighty-third year his strength and vigour were preserved. Only the day before his death he was engaged in preparing for the reception of some friends, and on the following day complained of difficulty in breathing, soon became speechless, and ere the evening closed the end came, so peaceably that some moments elapsed before the bystanders knew that the great man had passed to his rest. The obituary notice in the *Athenæum* on the 18th said: "The Duke of Wellington has

executed his own literary monument. His well-known 'Despatches,' brought before the world under the editorship of the late Col. Gurwood, minutely illustrate his famous career as a soldier, and at the same time record the causes of his success, as no other historian could have succeeded in recording it; while they paint the hero's own portraiture with authentic and unconscious skill. These famous documents have a literary interest which it was never a part of their author's purpose to claim for them. We have in them the undesigned anatomy of a species of 'hero' such as the story of no other country records.....The difficulties that the Duke encountered in the Peninsular War can never be appreciated except by a perusal of his Despatches:—which contrast curiously with the dramatic style and flaunting rhetoric of Napoleon. We do not remember any other instance wherein a Statesman or a General has written documents so full and decisive on the questions discussed. Marlborough's letters are crude and incomplete, and abounding in grammatic solecisms. In the 'Chatham Correspondence' the composition frequently runs into turgid verbiage. The Despatches of the younger Pitt, though clear, are diffuse. Mr. Canning wrote State Papers like a rhetorician striving for academical applause. But the 'Wellington Despatches' are pithy, clear, and precise. While

His
'Despatches.'

instructive at the time to the persons addressed, they are now, from their fulness of matter and gravity of tone, replete with interest and invaluable as testimony. Besides their historic value, they are matchless examples of that clear expression which is the natural utterance of a clear meaning and a resolute will.....It is an interesting fact, that when the first passages in the Peninsular campaigns were severely criticized in Parliament, a young man, the son of a manufacturer, defended them again and again with admirable talent and great readiness in debate. This was the late Sir Robert Peel:—whose epitaph the Duke of Wellington lived to speak nobly and touchingly in the House of Lords.”

Opening of the Liverpool Free Library. Mention is made on the 23rd of October of the opening on the previous Monday of the Liverpool Library and Museum. The Derby natural history collection—the bequest of the thirteenth Earl of Derby—consisted of 18,700 specimens, while the library already numbered 10,000 volumes, and the committee had promised to add 4,000 before the close of the year. Several valuable pictures had also been presented, and it was hoped to form a gallery of art worthy of Liverpool.

H. Browne,
founder of
the Primitive
Methodists.

The number for November 13th notes the death, at an advanced age, in Staffordshire, of Mr. H. Browne, “an individual who has had

a greater influence on his age than many a man of whom the general public hears a great deal more. This obscure individual was founder of the sect called Primitive Methodists or Ranters : —a sect spread over the American Union, and having its chapels in every large town of the manufacturing districts here."

Dr. Gideon Mantell died on the 10th of Dr. Mantell. November, in his sixty - third year, and an obituary notice appears on the 20th. His published works included 'Wonders of Geology,' 'Medals of Creation,' and one on the 'Geology of the Isle of Wight.' He commenced his professional career as a general practitioner at Lewes, in Sussex, where he was very successful, leaving in 1835 for Brighton, where he remained for four years and then came to London. "The accident of his position made him a geologist ; the requirements of the science made him a great geologist. Lewes was in the neighbourhood of an unworked mine. Up to the time that Dr. Mantell commenced his labours little was known of the nature of the Wealden formation, or of the fossils which it contained. Seldom has an observer had a richer field for the exercise of his powers, and seldom has an opportunity been better seized. In the course of a few years Dr. Mantell collected together from the Wealden and the Chalk a museum

of specimens, which is now the property of the nation in the British Museum,—the Trustees of this institution having purchased it for 5,000*l.*Scientific Geology is also deeply indebted to Dr. Mantell and his son for bringing to light the remains of the great extinct family of birds found in New Zealand.”

John
Hamilton
Reynolds.

Reference is made on the same date to the death of John Hamilton Reynolds, the brother-in-law of Hood and probably the most competent person to write his life.

Disraeli's
speech on the
Duke of
Wellington.

The speech delivered by Mr. Disraeli in the House of Commons on the occasion of the death of the Duke of Wellington is referred to as an addition to the ‘Curiosities of Literature’: “A Correspondent of the *Globe* professes to have found the speech on referring back to a file of the *Morning Chronicle*, almost word for word, figure for figure, idea for idea, in the funeral oration pronounced by M. Thiers on Marshal Gouvion St. Cyr. Our contemporary prints the two speeches in parallel columns,—and they certainly do resemble each other as closely as two several reports in different journals of the same speech generally resemble each other.”

Miss Berry.

The number for November 27th mentions the death of Miss Berry in her ninetieth year, having survived her younger sister about eighteen months: “The hand that penned a long series

of the pleasantest letters in the English language has lain mouldering in a vault at Houghton since the spring of 1797:—and more than half a century later—at the close of 1852—is finally hushed the fascinating tongue that refused the proffered coronet of the pleasant letter writer,—whom she really loved. The last male descendant of Sir Robert Walpole (every one's Horace Walpole—no one's Earl of Orford) tendered sixty years since his title to Mary Berry:—and Mary Berry, after living to charm some seventy years of English society since, only a week ago ceased to live. What thoughts and recollections does such a death awaken! Miss Berry *knew* Horace Walpole, and corresponded with him,—and Horace Walpole had *seen* La Belle Jennings and *knew* Prior's Kitty. A little fancy throws us two centuries back, into the last year of the Protectorate, and headlong into the profligacies of the Restoration."

The untimely death, at the age of thirty-seven, Ada Byron. of Ada Byron (Lady Lovelace), the only child of Lord Byron, "sole daughter of his house and heart," is recorded the following week. Byron and his daughter died at the same age. "Some presentiment that her life was not to exceed in duration of years the life of her father, is said to have been uppermost in the daughter's mind for some years past;—and that presentiment, if it in

truth existed, may have contributed to its own accomplishment. The married life of Lord Byron—or rather the period during which Lord and Lady Byron lived together—was a year and some few days. They were married in January 1815. On the 10th of December, in the same year, Ada, their only child, was born; and, in January 1816, the husband and wife separated for ever. When her mother removed her into Leicestershire, and when her father saw her for the last time, Ada was a month old. The solitary poet's feelings would seem to have clung to his child;—and the third book of 'Childe Harold'—written in 1816, immediately after the separation—is dedicated as it were to the father's love..... Ada Byron never looked consciously into the face of her father. Whatever wholesome and ennobling joys his wayward 'nature' might have found in watching the growth of his young daughter's mind, it was *not* reserved for the poet ever to know. How far the voice of the illustrious father did blend with the future visions of the orphan girl—how far the echoes of his harp and of his heart did 'reach into her heart'—how far the token and the tone from her father's mould had part in her after-musings—the world perhaps has no right to inquire. Still, many will find it pleasant to learn that by her own desire the remains of Ada Byron were to be laid yesterday

where they will mingle with her 'father's mould'—in Hucknall Church.....Lady Lovelace cared little about poetry. Like her father's Donna Inez, in 'Don Juan'—

Her favourite science was the mathematical.

Mr. Babbage is said to have conducted her studies at one time,—and Lady Lovelace is known to have translated from Italian into English a very elaborate Defence of the once celebrated Calculating Machine of her mathematical friend..... Lady Lovelace has left three children,—two sons, and a daughter. Her mother is still alive,—to see perhaps with a softened spirit the shade of the father beside the early grave of his only child. Ada's looks in her later years—years of suffering, borne with gentle and womanly fortitude—have been happily caught by Mr. Henry Phillips,—whose father's pencil has preserved to us the best likeness of Ada's father."

The death of Prof. Empson, editor of the *Edinburgh Review*, is noticed on the 18th of December. He had died on the 10th inst., at the East India College, Haileybury, in his sixty-third year. "He became an *Edinburgh Reviewer* in 1823,—married Francis Jeffrey's only child,—and through Jeffrey's influence, succeeded the late Mr. Macvey Napier as editor of the great Whig Review." In the following week it is announced that Mr. George

Prof.
Empson.

Cornewall Lewis — long the Whig financial secretary at the Treasury—is to be the new editor.

Search for
Sir John
Franklin.

Sir Edward
Belcher.

The chief expedition of the year in search for Sir John Franklin was that under Sir Edward Belcher, and the *Athenæum* for April 3rd refers to the active efforts to complete its equipment, provisions being taken for three years. "The greatest exertions will be made to pierce the neck of ice, should it be still found to bar the entrance to Wellington Channel." On April 24th the sailing of the expedition is recorded, and, "bearing in mind the determination and energy of its commander and his officers, we are warranted in anticipating happy results."

Proposed
testimonial
to Mr.
Grinnell.

Letter from
him.

Some of the Arctic officers in the British service were desirous that a testimonial should be presented to Mr. Grinnell as a recognition of the noble share he had taken in the search for our lost countrymen by means of an expedition fitted out at his own expense. Mr. Grinnell, however, in a letter which appeared on April 3rd, says: "I beg to transmit by the first steamer my grateful sense of the feelings which have dictated the movement, and to request most earnestly that you will dedicate to the recovery of the missing navigators any sums you may have collected for the purpose. I

claim no merit for my Expedition ; the cause of Sir John Franklin is the cause of universal humanity, and my country would have reaped as much advantage as yours had he succeeded in opening the icy gates of the Arctic regions."

The same number notes the return of Dr. Rae in excellent health, notwithstanding "the perils and hardships of Arctic exploration, a more than ordinary share of which have fallen to his lot."

Dr. Rae.

The gallant little ship Prince Albert, under the command of Mr. Kennedy, returned to Aberdeen on the 7th of October, bearing the cheering news that Sir Edward Belcher had passed up Wellington Channel early in August, this channel, as well as that leading towards Melville Island, being quite free from ice, and presenting open water as far as a telescope would command a view. "This is the most satisfactory intelligence that we have had from the field of the long Arctic exploration for many a day. As the result of Mr. Kennedy's Expedition combines with all else that has been done to point directly up the Wellington Channel for the solution of the painful and protracted mystery which shrouds our lost ships, it is a great relief to know that, after the long and uncertain beating about in those dreary seas, the actual trail is at last almost certainly struck,—and that a bold

Return of
the Prince
Albert.

and resolute officer has gone straight into the free and unexplored water along which it doubtless runs.....Mr. Kennedy states, that during his long journey he fell in with a vast number of animals; and it may interest the naturalist to know, that two large ravens were constantly seen at Fury Beach. At the mouth of Wellington Channel an extraordinary number of whales were seen coming from the north: a fact full of promise. Seals were shot,—the flesh of which Mr. Kennedy assures us proved, when properly cooked, most palatable. The organ given to the crew by H.R.H. Prince Albert proved a source of great enjoyment. When they were visited by Esquimaux at Pond's Bay, the instrument was brought on deck, and the effects of its tones on the natives were irresistibly ludicrous."

Return of
the Isabel.

The number for November 13th records the return of the screw steamer Isabel, Captain Inglefield, after a search of the "whole north coast of Baffin's Bay, and the various inlets and channels leading out of it, beginning with Wolstenholm Sound and Whale Sound, which latter presented two large openings to the north-eastward. On entering Smith Sound, at the head of Baffin's Bay—long considered as a promising field for discovery,—the passage widened until it became a broad expanse of open water, and it seemed as if the little Isabel were on the verge of the long-

talked-of Polar basin. It being evident that Sir John Franklin's party had not passed through this opening, her course was directed to Jones's Sound, which was penetrated as far as 85° west latitude, very far beyond any preceding Expedition ; when, being arrested by ice, Captain Inglefield was obliged to stop short. Hence he proceeded to Beechey Island ; where he found the North Star,—and gladdened the hearts of all at the depôt by delivering the numerous letters and despatches which had been put on board the *Isabel* before leaving England."

CHAPTER X.

THE ATHENÆUM, 1853.

The Dublin
Industrial
Exhibition.

THE Dublin Industrial Exhibition was the great event of 1853. Mr. Dargan, on the 24th of June in the previous year, had most generously offered to put down 20,000*l.* for a grand Exhibition, upon condition that the Royal Dublin Society would permit the building to be erected on their lawn. This was readily agreed to, but the plan had soon to be enlarged, for applications for space from intending exhibitors came in so rapidly that the building had to be extended until it covered the gardens and the court in

Mr. Dargan's
munificence.

front of the Society's house. Mr. Dargan's expenditure amounted to nearly 100,000*l.*

The Exhibition was opened on the 12th of May by the Lord Lieutenant (the Earl St Germain) in the presence of 15,000 people. The central hall was 425 feet long, and at the end of it was placed the organ built by Messrs. Telford for St. Peter's College, Oxford. The organ contained 3,000 pipes, one of these—the CCCC—being 32 feet long. The Official

Catalogue gives the names of 1,460 exhibitors in the United Kingdom, and of about 350 from France, Germany, Holland, and Belgium. The pictures, exclusive of those from France, amounted to about a thousand.

The *Athenæum* of May 21st states that the general departments of the Exhibition in which Ireland makes the greatest show are linen manufactures; poplins, including a loom put up by Messrs. Fry for making a newly invented brocaded poplin; Balbriggan hosiery; saddlery and leather work; church bells, comprising some large and fine specimens; carriages; engineering and architectural designs; musical instruments; lace, embroidery, and needlework of every description, and most of it in good taste, including the cases and stands of the Ladies' Industrial Society of Ireland and of the Seamstresses' Society of Dublin; clothing; furniture; and agricultural machines and implements. Mention is also made of the collection of Irish marbles exhibited by the Royal Dublin Society: "At present, for want of the necessary stimulus, the working and conveyance of the native marbles are both costly, —but there is no intrinsic cause why they should remain so.....The native marbles of Ireland are very beautiful,—some of them quite unique; and if the Exhibition draws attention to them, and leads to improvements and greater

Irish
exhibits.

Irish
marbles.

economy in working them, it will render a very important service."

Irish
antiquities.

The Exhibition included a collection of Irish antiquities, which comprised nearly the whole of the museum of the Royal Irish Academy as well as contributions from the chief local collections. The room in which these antiquities were exhibited was of oblong form, about 24 yards long and 10 wide. The following description appears in the *Athenæum* of October 22nd:—"A remarkable ancient architectural character has been imparted to it by the introduction of casts of portions of some of the most singular religious edifices in the country. The apartment is indeed, as it were, divided into a nave and chancel, by the great six-times-recessed chancel-arch of Tuam, with its strange Egyptian-like sculptures; and the east end is lighted by the three still more curiously ornamented round-headed windows from the same building. The three entrances are casts of curiously carved and inscribed doorways of ancient churches; and over the west door is inserted the circular window, assigned to the eighth century, from Rahan Church, figured in Petrie's 'Round Towers,' p. 241. In addition to these casts, the Fine Arts Committee have also obtained casts of the two great crosses from Monasterboice, as well as the originals of four other curiously

carved stone crosses from other parts of Ireland,—that from Tuam being more than twenty feet high.....Down the middle of the apartment are ranged a series of iron glazed safes, containing the gold torques from Sherwood Forest, exhibited by the Queen, and the gold antiquities belonging to the Royal Irish Academy and to private individuals. These consist of torques, bracelets, brooches, rings, bullæ, boxes, discs, and other ornaments:—including many of the double-disked objects almost peculiar to Ireland, of which the use is entirely conjectural. The native gold of which these ornaments are composed is very rich in colour, and must have been found in early times in great quantity,—one of the torques weighing as much as $27\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, and one of the bracelets nearly 17 ounces. The great antiquity of these golden ornaments is proved by the fact not only of the use of many of them being quite unknown,—but also by the fact that the style of ornamentation employed in the decoration of such of them as are ornamented is very simple, like that of the earthen vases found in early graves, and quite unlike the ornamentation adopted in metal, stone, and manuscript work of the early Christian period. Such a splendid collection of golden ornaments is, we apprehend, perfectly unique. Adjoining the gold series are several upright glass cases

Irish gold ornaments.

containing a variety of ecclesiastical relics, in the precious metals, of extraordinary interest,—as the dates of many of them are well ascertained. Here is the yellow Cross of Coorg, of the early part of the twelfth century,—remarkable for the elaborate intricacy of its workmanship and the inscriptions on its edges. Here are several highly enriched Cumhdachs, or silver and jewelled cases of manuscripts of the Gospels,—and a number of the equally enriched hand-bells of the early Irish Saints, which in later ages were held in great veneration, and used for the administration of oaths. Of these latter, the bell of St. Patrick, belonging to Dr. Todd, is by far the most splendid:—although the golden bell of St. Senan is perhaps of equal interest, from its various covers exhibiting different styles of work from an early period to the fourteenth century. Here are also, the famous Book of Armagh, written A.D. 807, by Ferdomnach, precisely in the style of the Gospels of Mac Durnan, in the library of Lambeth, with its very remarkable leather cover;—a copy of the Psalms, of still greater antiquity, ascribed to St. Columba;—and the Domnach Airgid, a beautiful silver shrine, containing a very early copy of the Gospels, said to have been brought to Ireland by St. Patrick, but evidently of Irish origin, and in the same fine style of writing as

Cases for the
Gospels :
hand-bells
of the Irish
Saints.

the famous Book of Kells. Here are also, the large curious shrine of St. Manchan, covered with bosses of the most intricate workmanship, and with small copper-gilt figures, a restored copy of which has been executed with surprising skill by Dr. Carte,—the Reliquary of St. Lachtin, of the size and shape of a human arm, covered with elaborate chasing, belonging to Andrew Fountaine, Esq., of Norford Hall, Norfolk,—the Shrine of St. Patrick's Hands,—the Dunvegan Cup, belonging to the MacLeod, of MacLeod, the inscription of which was strangely ill read by Sir Walter Scott,—the Tara Brooch, the most exquisite of its kind, and which has been admirably reproduced by Messrs. Waterhouse,—and lastly, the set of Waxen Tablets found in a bog near Maghera, Co. Derry, inscribed with Latin sentences, and described by Dr. Todd.....Here are also a large collection of the Irish brooches, some being three or four inches in diameter, with the pins from six to ten inches long. Many of these are also extremely beautiful in their execution; and some with large knobs, resembling arbutus berries, appear to have offered much difficulty in their manufacture. Most of these brooches are of a type quite unlike that of the early British or Anglo-Saxon ones; and they are, for the most part, ornamented with intricate interlaced patterns similar to those on the crosses and in the early

Irish
brooches.

illuminated manuscripts of Ireland.....The earlier relics contained in the Exhibition possess very great analogy, and even identity, with those of the Celtic population of England,—yet, a totally different style of Art was adopted at a later period, coeval with the Christianity of Ireland ; —and it is among the relics of this later period, extending from the sixth to the twelfth century, that we find some of the most elaborately finished metal-work objects, often decorated with crystal and precious stones, and of a character quite unlike that of any other nation. During this period the arts must have flourished in Ireland in a wonderful manner. Whence these early Christian artificers obtained their skill is a marvel. How they have lost it is a regret and a reproach both to Ireland and to England, which it is to be hoped that the year 1853 will begin to wipe away.”

The
Exhibition
visited by the
Queen and
Prince Albert.

The Exhibition was visited by the Queen and Prince Albert on the 30th of August. On the 1st of November it was closed with a ceremonial “somewhat recalling that august and touching rite by which the Palace in Hyde Park was sealed up against the multitudes still arriving from all corners of the globe.”

Its success.

So far as Ireland was concerned the Exhibition had been a complete success, and it was hoped that the lessons received might be productive of many years “of glorious industry,

bringing to light the vast natural resources of the country, and shaping them to serve the interests and the happiness of the Irish people!"

When the accounts of the Exhibition were completed, it was found that the pecuniary loss to Mr. Dargan would amount to 20,000*l.*, and on the 24th of February, 1854, the *Athenæum* states that Her Majesty has commissioned an Irish sculptor to prepare a bust of herself for the enterprising and sagacious subject whom all England would delight to honour.

Loss to Mr.
Dargan.

The chief historical and biographical works of the year include the 'Lives and Letters of the Devereux, Earls of Essex, in the Reigns of Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I., 1540-1646,'

The
Devereux,
Earls of
Essex.

by the Hon. Walter Bouchier Devereux. These form the subject of three articles on January 1st, 8th, and 15th. On February 12th and 19th the *Memoirs of George III.*, by the Duke of Buckingham, are reviewed. These volumes contain a second selection from the Grenville Papers, and embrace the period from the fall of Lord North's ministry to the end of the last century. The first article treats of the portion relating to the fall of Lord Shelburne (Lansdowne) from power in 1783 and the "Coalition contest," while the second relates to the disputes about the Regency which arose in consequence of George III.'s mental illness. "These parts of

*Memoirs of
George III.
by the Duke
of Bucking-
ham.*

the Grenville Papers are the most personal, and contain the most invidious details about the Royal Family that have yet been published. The Prince of Wales (George IV.) and the Duke of York have never before appeared in a worse light. The satirical wit of Moore and the political attacks of Colonel Wardle could not do such lasting damage to the fame of the royal brothers as the pictures of them in the Grenville Papers."

' Charles
James Fox,'
by Lord John
Russell.

On May 7th and 14th the first two volumes of the 'Memorials and Correspondence of Charles James Fox,' edited by Lord John Russell, are reviewed. "The biographer of Mr. Fox was to have been the late Lord Holland,—Mr. Fox's nephew;—and from 1806 to 1853 public attention has been kept alive to a belief that the biography would be one worthy of the subject and of the reputation of its writer. The final disappointment of expectations that were rife for twenty years, and more, about Mallet's 'Life of the Great Duke of Marlborough' was scarcely more sore than that which a perusal of the book before us will occasion to every believer in Holland House. The 'Life of Mr. Fox' was a subject not, it was understood, to be treated by any one else,—a biography 'not to let.' 'Lord Holland is engaged on it,'—was repeated by many a guest from Holland House

—‘and you know how delightful a biography we are sure to receive from such a pen.’ But it was as much talk, after all, in the case of Lord Holland as it was in that of Mallet. His Lordship collected, it is true,—and got Lord Grey and Mr. Rogers to annotate; but he soon grew weary of his task,—and his monument to his uncle has at length hardly the common scaffolding which would have been due to such a monument.” After Lord Holland’s death, his friend Mr. Allen took up the subject, but died before he had done more than a good week’s work upon this labour of love; and then Lady Holland handed over her husband’s and Mr. Allen’s raw materials for a “Life” to Lord John Russell, “who, remembering a saying of Lord Holland’s, that the Life would he believed be left to Lord John to finish,—*has* finished it, accordingly.” Lord John, in a brief but sensible preface, expresses his regret that public affairs have prevented him from weaving his materials into a continuous narrative. “As it is,” he writes, “the work I am about to produce must have a disjointed and irregular appearance.” “A very disjointed appearance it indeed has:—one that would have alarmed the author of the beautiful fragment of English history which bears the well-known name of Fox.”*

* For the ‘History of the Reign of James II.,’ 4to.,

The publication of the concluding volumes of 'The Grenville Papers'—volumes which "afford extract and suggest comment enough to fill a month's *Athenæum*"—was too tempting an opportunity for Mr. Dilke to pass by, and the *Athenæum* for 1853 contains large contributions from his pen, the first appearing on May 21st. "Here we have the concluding volumes of this valuable contribution to modern history—of a work which, be its immediate interest greater or less, must ever take rank amongst historical authorities ;—and here we have, what are called the Junius letters—the mysterious discoveries at Stowe which for thirty or more years have been the subject of so much discussion, founded, as we long since said, on mere confident and ignorant assertion. These Junius letters, and the question which they are thought to illustrate, are introduced by a very able Essay ; but as that Essay is but a discourse founded on an incident, and as the subject is of limited interest,—we shall give our first attention to the general Correspondence."

The second notice is given on May 28th, and contains the following on the Earl of Chatham :

commenced by Fox and finished by Lord Holland, Mr. William Miller, of Albemarle Street, gave 4,500*l.* — the largest sum which had then (1808) been given by a publisher for a single work.

“No man ever won such a reputation as The Earl of Chatham. Chatham who so little deserved it. He was a great orator no doubt:—his reputation still rings in the public ear, and is proof,—otherwise we must take even that on trust, for there is nothing in the report of his speeches to justify his fame. He is said, too, to have been a great war minister,—but what that means we know not. If, because he was Minister, he is entitled to share in the honours won by Wolfe and Amherst, then he must divide disgrace with Mordaunt and Byng and Sackville, and take his share of the ridicule which covered Rochfort, St. Maloes, and Cherbourg. If he were a great war minister, and if the words have a meaning, then Lord Castlereagh was a greater,—as much greater as the reader may suppose the scale of operations and the triumphs of 1813 and 1814 to exceed those of 1759 and 1760. Chatham, in truth, had none of the elements of greatness, except indomitable self-will, self-dependence, and a spirit above personal and pecuniary meanness;—though not ashamed to live with a profusion and extravagance that necessarily involved him in debts and difficulties, and enforced the ready acceptance of personal and pecuniary obligations. If any believe that we do him injustice, let them compare his conduct in office with his avowals out of it. What was his con-

duct during the period here brought under consideration? In 1763 and 1765 Temple and Pitt refused to accept office unless they were to be not merely the responsible, but the originating and controlling ministers. The 'power behind the throne, greater than the power of the throne itself,' may have been all a delusion,—but at least Temple believed, and Pitt professed to believe, in it. In this faith Mr. Pitt should have joined Lord Temple, and upheld George Grenville in 1764,—instead of which he retired sulkily to Hayes, dumb as a disappointed but expectant courtier. In 1766 he should have upheld the Rockinghams, not superseded them,—not deserted Temple, accepted a peerage, and openly published his apostacy and his alliance by restoring Bute's brother. There is no falsification here; for Chatham was no sooner again out of office than he talked as loudly as ever of the power behind the throne, and that he had been deceived. Great men are not deceived,—it is the test of their greatness:—even Temple was not. But little men sometimes deceive themselves,—especially when tempted by a king's autograph to office and a peerage."

"The mysterious and much-talked-of letters" found at Stowe, and assumed to have been written by Junius, together with the introductory essay, by the editor of 'The Grenville

Junius.

Papers,' "intended to prove that Lord Temple was Junius, and Lady Temple his amanuensis," form the subject of two articles on June 11th and 18th.* "We respect Mr. Smith as a laborious, able, well-informed advocate; but we hold all his adduced proofs of personal and political agreements, sympathies, and so forth, as just so much waste paper. No doubt there was a general agreement and sympathy between Junius and Temple;—and so there was between Junius and all other fierce opposition men. But Junius won his great triumph because he spoke with the indignant voice, not of an individual, not of a faction, not of a party, but of the people. He was the eloquent embodiment of their thoughts and feelings. He may have differed from them on a hundred points of policy or of government beyond their comprehension,—but in the main, on all great popular questions, he was one with them, heart and mind. Junius was not of the common herd of common men,—no, nor an exceptional man taken from it. It was not that his genius transcended that of other men; but that he was not open to those influences which direct and control them. He was one and alone:—isolated, self-dependent, self-balanced. He had great failings, but no weaknesses. He had no vulnerable point about

* These are reprinted in 'Papers of a Critic.'

him :—not even that which Milton calls ‘the last infirmity,’ as the silence of a century proves. ‘He loved the cause independent of persons,’—wrote himself down as ‘one of the people,’—and said, in words that would startle like thunder the gentilities and imbecilities of our literary world, ‘I love and esteem the MOB.’ No vague generalities, therefore—no likings or dislikings—no personal friendships or personal animosities—no amount of such proofs would with us be any proof at all, or even tend to fix on an individual the authorship of Junius’s Letters.”

Lives of
Moore and
Haydon.

Long notices are also given to the third and fourth volumes of the ‘Memoirs of Thomas Moore,’ by Lord John Russell, and the ‘Life of Haydon,’ edited by Tom Taylor.

Jonathan
Pereira.

The death, at the age of forty-nine, of Dr. Pereira is announced on January 29th. His great work was ‘Elements of Materia Medica,’ “on which his reputation as a physician and man of science will principally rest.....This work contained by far the most complete and accurate account of substances used in medicine that had ever been published. Not only were the sources of medicine and their commercial history fully treated therein,—but the author entered with great caution and skill into inquiries connected with the action of remedies :—and thus his book became at once a standard

of reference for all who were engaged in the business of selling drugs and chemicals, or in the duty of prescribing them as medicines."

The results of Mr. Layard's further researches in the mine of Assyrian antiquities had been looked for with eager curiosity, and two articles are given to his new book, 'Discoveries in the Ruins of Nineveh and Babylon,' the first appearing on March 5th and the second on March 12th. "However high may have been the anticipations of the public, they will be amply realized in this production,—the subject-matter of which is full of most valuable and suggestive materials." Mr. Layard's wanderings extended from the Black Sea to Niffer, in the low marshy country between the Tigris and the Euphrates, thirty miles south of Babylon, and in an easterly direction to the mountainous district Shemdeena, on the confines of Persia, "the lines of his route diverging to every locality either known or supposed to contain ancient remains."

The 'Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin,' by Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, was published in England on the 19th of March, and is the subject of three articles in the *Athenæum* (March 26th and April 2nd and 9th). Mrs. Stowe "denies that her work is a work of imagination.....and she produces the originals of her story in their well-known costumes and talking really the

Layard's
further
researches.

'Key to
Uncle Tom's
Cabin.'

characteristic language apparently put by her into their mouths. There is a sacrifice in this which proves the writer's zeal in the great cause beyond all cavil,—and it brings an entirely new element into the estimate of a very remarkable book.....The abettors of slavery have not been wise in their generation in provoking a reply from 'the mere novelist' so conclusive and so crushing on all the really important parts of the controversy in which they have engaged."

Purchase of
the Gore
House estate.

With the number for the 21st of May a plan is given showing the position of the estate purchased by H.M. Commissioners of the Exhibition of 1851. "The extent is about eighty-six acres, and the cost of the property has been 280,000*l.*,—or, an average of 3,250*l.* per acre. This timely purchase has secured space for national buildings in the best part of London,—and at a price so moderate, that even thus early it might be resold at a large profit. The effect of the purchase has been, it is said, to have already increased the value of the property in the neighbourhood upwards of 40 per cent."

Alderman
Harmer.

The death of Alderman Harmer, proprietor of the *Weekly Dispatch* and a good friend to the Newsvendors' Benevolent Institution, is announced in the same number.

Measurement
of London
streets.

The official measurement of the principal London streets, preparatory to the new cab

law coming into operation, is mentioned on June 25th.

Articles appear on July 2nd and 9th on the 'History of the Captivity of Napoleon at St. Helena, from the Letters and Journals of the late Lieut.-Gen. Sir Hudson Lowe, and Official Documents not before made Public,' by William Forsyth, M.A. "During the many years of Sir Hudson Lowe's governorship and care of Napoleon he visited his prisoner only six times. In point of fact, Napoleon would not allow himself to be seen,—and his dislike of the Governor took the proportions of a passion. After weighing attentively the evidence in this work, we may say, that the Cabinet of that time committed a lamentable indiscretion in choosing Sir Hudson Lowe for his office. He was a man of narrow mind, apparently with a military contempt for opinion, confessedly quick in temper, utterly deficient in tact, and ignorant of human nature. If Scott and Alison had had all the evidence before them which we have here, they must have written even more unfavourably of him than they did.....We would have felt pleasure in pronouncing a favourable judgment on Sir Hudson Lowe, but we feel that his name must continue to be associated with that of Napoleon in no enviable manner.....The work, at any rate, we think, proves the absence of

Napoleon at
St. Helena
and
Sir Hudson
Lowe.

malignity or cruelty on the part of the Government. The withholding the title of 'Emperor' may have been narrow-minded; but those who censure the Cabinet of the day must make allowance for the danger of even verbal recognition of the claims of Napoleon to the throne of France. 'Words are things' in such cases. It would be difficult to show that any of the Allied Powers would have behaved to Napoleon as well as England did. That he pined in his chain at St. Helena, is true enough; but even with the advantages of retrospective survey, candour must confess that it is almost impossible to see what else but his detention in the safest custody could have been resolved on in a case exceptional in history. England had, in fact, a most ungracious office,—of which it was impossible that she should acquit herself in a spirit of chivalry. As she had borne the principal cost of the war, so she took on herself the heaviest charge of the peace:—and both are a burthen on the future of her children perhaps for ever."

Halliwell's
'Shake-
speare.'

The first volume of Mr. Halliwell's 'Shakespeare' is thus noticed on July 2nd: "We cheerfully commend it as a favourable example of modern typography. It is handsomely printed by Messrs. Adlard; and contains a multitude of pretty little illustrations by Fairholt and facsimiles by Netherclift."

The work was completed in sixteen thick folio volumes, the period of publication extending from 1853 to 1865. Most of the subscribers had the book at the original cost of 42*l.* plain paper plates, and 63*l.* India paper plates. The impression was limited to 150 copies, and these prices were afterwards increased.

Its completion.

Prof. Faraday's 'Experimental Investigation of Table-Moving' also appears on July 2nd: "The communication is of great importance in the present morbid condition of public thought,—when, as Prof. Faraday says, the effect produced by table-turners has, without due inquiry, been referred to electricity, to magnetism, to attraction, to some unknown or hitherto unrecognized physical power able to affect inanimate bodies, to the revolution of the earth, and even to diabolical or supernatural agency.....'I have been,' says the Professor, 'greatly startled by the revelation which this purely physical subject has made of the condition of the public mind.'" Prof. Faraday shows by the most careful investigation, and by means of test apparatus, that "it is by physical power, and not by any magnetic fluid, that tables move on being pressed by the fingers."

Table-turning : Faraday's experiments.

Mr. Layard's 'Second Series of the Monuments of Nineveh' is noticed on July 16th.

It is stated on July 2nd that the great gold

The great
Australian
nugget.

nugget from Ballarat, weighing 134 lb. 11 oz., found by Messrs. D. Evans, J. Evans, J. Lees, and W. P. Green, has been added for present exhibition to the interesting mineral collection in the Great Globe building in Leicester Square; and on July 30th an extract from the *Times* states that the great Australian nugget has been melted and sold by Messrs. Haggard & Pixley, bullion brokers, for 5,532*l.* Its weight before melting was 1,615 ounces; and it yielded 1,319 ounces of fine gold, equal to 1,423 ounces standard.

Bransby
Cooper.

The distinguished surgeon Bransby Cooper died on the 18th of August, in his sixty-first year, and on the 27th a notice appears of him. He had been for some time in ill health, and was seized with his fatal attack while at the Athenæum Club. "Bransby Cooper was the fourth son of the Rev. Samuel Cooper, the elder brother of Sir Astley Cooper,—and was born at Great Yarmouth on the 2nd of September, 1792. Like his celebrated professional brother Liston's, his early taste pointed to the sea,—and when quite a lad he was entered as a midshipman on board the *Stately*, a 64-gun ship. His health failing him, he gave up the navy; and at his uncle's suggestion adopted the study of medicine. With this view he repaired to Norwich,—where he studied at the hospital for two years.....In the

year 1812 Mr. Cooper entered the army as assistant-surgeon in the Royal Artillery,—and he was engaged in active service in the Peninsula. He was present at the battles of Vittoria, the Pyrenees, Nivelles, and Orthes, at the siege of St. Sebastian, and at the battle of Toulouse..... In 1820 he became Demonstrator of Anatomy in St. Thomas's Hospital;—and he was afterwards appointed Surgeon to Guy's..... He was an eminently kind-hearted man,—and had many of those qualities which made his uncle so much esteemed."

On the same date mention is made of the death of Lady Sale, the historian of the vicissitudes and sufferings of the captivity in Afghanistan. She died at Cape Town on the 6th of July: "Since her return to the East, Lady Sale had resided chiefly in the hill country, on the pension granted by the Queen. Her death adds one more to the list of departed Englishwomen who in life were remarkable both as writers and as actors,—whose literary ability had been first discovered in telling the story of their own careers."

The death of the Rev. F. W. Robertson, of Brighton, also claims a word of regret in the *Athenæum*, "because he was one whose labours were conducted in a spirit as liberal as it was zealous:—looked at in this point of view his

Lady Sale.

Rev. F. W.
Robertson.

addresses delivered at the popular institutions at Brighton may be also commemorated as remarkable. His two published lectures 'On the Influence of Poetry on the Working Classes' are full of large truths and genial sympathies, giving the lecturer a claim on general as well as local remembrance."

George
Bradshaw.

A note is made on September 24th of the death of Mr. George Bradshaw, the originator of *Bradshaw's Railway Guide*, at Christiania, in Norway, on the 6th inst., of cholera.

Standards
of length and
weight.

The standard weights and measures were settled by Parliament in 1824. These were in the custody of the Clerk of the House of Commons, and were destroyed by the fire in 1834. A commission (the members of which were all Fellows of the Royal Society) was subsequently appointed to consider the steps to be taken for the restoration of these standards. The *Athenæum* of October 22nd states: "The late Mr. Baily took a very active part in the preparation of a standard yard; which, however, although constructed most carefully, deteriorated in such a manner as to be unworthy of confidence. Since Mr. Baily's death, the Rev. Mr. Sheepshanks has been engaged on the very difficult and delicate task of constructing a standard yard,—while Prof. Miller, of Cambridge, undertook to make a standard avoirdu-

pois pound. The liberality of Government placed at Mr. Sheepshanks' command apparatus for his purpose far superior to that possessed by his predecessors. His labours were carried on in the lower tiers of cellars in Somerset House,—which are very favourable to the work on account of their slow-changing temperature. After an infinite number of experiments and comparisons, two standards have been constructed. The originals have been inclosed in one of the walls of the New Houses of Parliament;—and perfectly accurate copies were placed by Mr. Airy in the custody of the Royal Society on Thursday last.”

The death is noted on November 12th of Mr. Wooller, “the editor of the *Black Dwarf*.” The
Black Dwarf. This was a London political weekly, started January, 1819, and continued to December, 1824. Mr. Wooller was prosecuted for publishing blasphemy in this periodical.

Amelia Opie died on the 2nd of December, Amelia Opie. aged eighty-five, and an obituary notice appears on the 10th: “She was first known in her birth-place, Norwich, as the beautiful and accomplished daughter of Dr. Alderson.....Subsequently, as the fascinating second wife of the ‘Cornish wonder,’ Mrs. Opie, by her grace and her musical talents, drew a circle round her in London, only broken up by the untimely death

of her husband, the painter, in 1807.....Were they now published, Mrs. Opie's 'Simple Tales,' her 'Tales of the Heart,' her 'Father and Daughter' (the most popular, perhaps, of her novels) would be thought to want both body and soul;—to be poor as regards invention, slight in manner—unreal in sentiment,—and they are so, if they be tried against the best writings by the Authors of 'The Admiral's Daughter,' and 'Mary Barton,' and 'Jane Eyre.' In their day, however, they were cherished, and wept over, as moving and truthful. They won for their authoress a Continental reputation; and one of them, 'The Father and Daughter,' in its translated and dramatized form as the opera 'Agnese,' with Paër's expressive music (some of Paër's best) and Ambrogetti's harrowing personation of the principal character, will connect Amelia Opie's name with Opera so long as the chronicles of Music shall be written."

The opera
'Agnese.'

The search
for Sir John
Franklin.

The year's history of Arctic expeditions includes the discovery of the North-West Passage by Capt. M'Clure and the sad death of the brave Lieut. Bellot, but no traces of the Erebus and Terror.

The Isabel.

The screw steamer Isabel left Cowes on the 8th of April. The Admiralty rendered some assistance in the equipment of the vessel, and it was towed as far as the Isle of Wight by

a Government steamer; but the heavy expense of provisioning and storing the ship, with the pay of the crew, fifteen in number, was defrayed by Lady Franklin. The screw steamer Phoenix, The Phoenix. with the Lady Franklin tender store-ship, sailed in May with a supply of provisions and stores for Sir E. Belcher's squadron. The chief officer was Commander Inglefield, who was accompanied by Lieut. Bellot.

The *Athenæum* of June 18th announces that the *Advance*, "fitted out at the expense of Mr. Grinnell, sailed for the Arctic Regions from New York on the 31st of last month, under the command of Dr. Kane.....Second American expedition. The primary object of the Expedition will be, to search for Sir John Franklin. But this is not incompatible with other objects, and special attention will be given to scientific observations. For this purpose, Dr. Kane carries with him a set of magnetical and meteorological instruments, which have been provided by the liberality of the Smithsonian Institution.....All Dr. Kane's officers and men are volunteers, and are represented as being admirably adapted for the service in which they are engaged."

The return of the Phoenix, bringing despatches from Sir E. Belcher and Capt. M'Clure, Return of the Phoenix. is announced on October 15th. The despatches from Capt. M'Clure stated that he had "suc-

The North-
West Passage
discovered by
Capt.
M'Clure.

ceeded in navigating his ship from Behring's Strait, in the west, to within about sixty miles of Melville Straits,—and was, according to the last accounts, waiting only for the disruption of the ice to pass through those straits and return by the eastern outlet to England.—The problem had long since been stript of all that portion of its interest which was reflected on it from the field of commercial speculation; but its solution, after ages of such perilous adventure as that by which it has been sought, is a great scientific triumph,—and adds fresh glory to the old and famous flag of England..... When on the eve of sailing, Capt. M'Clure emphatically declared that he would find Sir John Franklin and Capt. Crozier,—or make the North-west passage. He has, geographically speaking, redeemed the latter part of this pledge:—but the fate of those gallant Commanders and their crews is hidden yet amid the dark and labyrinthine ice-paths of the Arctic seas. The scientific secret of centuries has been wrenched at last from the Spirit of the North;—but the human secret which in these latter days the heart of more nations than our own has so yearned to solve, he guards yet, in spite of all questioning, in some one of his drear and inaccessible caves."

The despatches of Capt. Inglefield contained

the following in reference to the death of Lieut. Bellot on the 18th of August: "It was in a second attempt to convey the original despatches to Sir E. Belcher that one of the saddest episodes recorded in these last Arctic papers occurred. The gallant Lieut. Bellot—who, it will be remembered, accompanied Capt. Inglefield in the *Phoenix*—here lost his life. He had been sent by Capt. Pullen on the above duty:—having volunteered his services. A heavy gale having suddenly sprung up, he and two of his men were driven from the shore on a floe; and while reconnoitering from the top of a hummock of this floe in search of the means of escape for himself and his party, he was precipitated by a violent gust of wind into a deep crack in the ice, and there perished by drowning. Quite aware of his imminent danger, we are informed that in the face of death he expressed his satisfaction that he was engaged in the performance of an important duty. His two companions were saved; and after driving about on the floe for thirty hours without food, they were enabled to regain their ship, bringing back the despatches in safety.—Lieut. Bellot had won the friendship and esteem of all the officers on board the *Phoenix*. His loss will be deeply lamented here,—as doubtless it will in the native service to which he was an honour. He had made a great

Death of
Lieut. Bellot.

number of magnetic and other scientific observations, which will be placed in the hands of Col. Sabine for publication. He was at all times foremost in the offer of his services for any difficult or dangerous undertaking. Indeed, he sacrificed his life to a sense of duty."

Pension to his parents. On the receipt of the news of the death of Lieut. Bellot the French Government at once granted a pension of 2,000 francs a year to his parents, with the provision that after their deaths it should descend to his brothers and sisters.

Proposed monument at Greenwich. On the 4th of November a meeting was held at Willis's Rooms, when it was proposed by Sir James Graham, the First Lord of the Admiralty, and seconded by Admiral Sir Edward Parry, that a public subscription should be opened for the purpose of erecting a monument to the memory of Lieut. Bellot, "to be placed at an appropriate spot at or near the Royal Hospital of Greenwich." It was also proposed "that the surplus of the subscription, after defraying the cost of the monument, be invested for the benefit of the family of Lieut. Bellot." The subscriptions came in rapidly, and by the 19th of November exceeded 800*l.*, Lady Franklin having given 25*l.*, while the officers and crew of the *Phoenix* contributed 20*l.*

Change of editor. At the end of the year Mr. T. K. Hervey resigned the editorship of the *Athenæum*, and was succeeded by Mr. W. Hepworth Dixon.

CHAPTER XI.

THE ATHENÆUM, 1854.

THE event of 1854 was the war with Russia. The war with Russia.
The reply to the ultimatum of England and France was received on the 25th of March. The Czar had "no answer to send," and on the 27th war was declared by France, and the English proclamation appeared on the following day. The literature of the war had commenced by anticipation in the previous year, and on the 18th of February, 1854, in reviewing Col. Chesney's 'Russo-Turkish Campaigns of 1828 and 1829; with a View of the Present State of Affairs in the East,' the *Athenæum* states that "the literature of the Eastern Question is becoming more and more voluminous every day." On the 4th of March it says: "If it were as universally true as it is universally received, that there is wisdom in a multitude of counsellors, the public would have no fear of going wrong in the great Eastern Question. Unhappily, however, when the multitude of counsellors represents a multitude of opposite views, sentiments,

and opinions, the mere increase of number in the voices to be heard does not necessarily involve an increase of wisdom in the counsel given and received.....each confident in his own view, each more or less intolerant of all other views, each pronouncing dogmatically on the points at issue—and some of them bent on arraiging the moral sense and the political attitude of a nearly unanimous people.”

The number of books on the war reviewed by the *Athenæum* during the year exceeded eighty, and included ‘Russia Self-condemned’; ‘Russia and the Russians’; a translation of Baron von Moltke’s ‘The Russians in Bulgaria and Rumelia in 1828 and 1829’; Ivan Golovin’s ‘The Nations of Russia and Turkey and their Destiny’; ‘The English Prisoners in Russia: a Personal Narrative,’ by Lieut. Royer, R.N.; and ‘The Englishwoman in Russia,’ by a lady ten years resident in that country.

Von Moltke. Baron von Moltke, then a major in the Prussian service, was sent to Turkey in 1828, and “remained in the Turkish tents during the whole of that disastrous campaign which saw the fall of Brailow, Varna, and Silistria, and which brought Marshal Diebitch across the range of the Balkan into the great plains of Adrianople. He noted events with the eye of a soldier and the precision of a man of science. Writing with-

out passion—telling the truth, as far as he knew it, on all occasions—his book has a peculiar use at the present day.” After a careful review of all the features of Bulgaria and the Balkan range which concern the military engineer, Baron von Moltke comes to the conclusion, based on science and experience, that “so long as Varna and Shumla, or even only one of them, can maintain itself, passing the Balkan will always be a very hazardous undertaking.”

The author of ‘The Englishwoman in Russia’ was at St. Petersburg while Sir Charles Napier cruised about the Baltic. There was great terror among the inhabitants of the city, although there came perpetual rumours of defeats inflicted by the Russians on the Allies. One day four English line-of-battle ships were reported to be sunk, and this was repeated until forty at least were laid *in pace* at the bottom of the sea. There was also much talk at St. Petersburg of “an expedition against the Tower of London, and the Czar’s flag was, in many a fond anticipation, planted above its walls!”

‘The
English-
woman in
Russia.’

In June of this year the Crystal Palace was completed. The building in Hyde Park had been purchased by the company on the 1st of December, 1851, for 70,000*l*. The capital originally proposed was 500,000*l*., but the outlay incurred, chiefly upon the Courts, was so great,

The Crystal
Palace.

that the capital had to be increased in January, 1853, to a million sterling.

The ten
Courts.

The
Pompeian.

The *Athenæum* gave a full description of the ten Courts in a series of articles, commencing on January 21st, 1854, with the Pompeian, where "the visitor steps, as it were, bodily into the first century of the Christian era. We are at once with Tacitus and the two Plinys.....In such a villa as is here represented, clad in festive robes of purple and crowned with flowers, Cicero may have sat and boasted of Catiline's flight from the senate house."

The Greek Court was described on January 28th; the Roman Courts on February 11th and 18th; the Egyptian Court on March 4th; and the Assyrian on March 11th.

The
Alhambra.

The Alhambra on March 18th was spoken of as "one of the most perfect reproductions in the whole building, because it is constructed of the very material of the original, and wears a bloom and glow that the old palace of the Granada Sultans has long since lost.....The key to all national architecture is the nature of the material with which it had first to deal. In Egypt, we see the palm-tree and the papyrus,—and in India and China, the tent turning into a pagoda. These mural decorations of the Moor, says Mr. Owen Jones,—to whose taste we are indebted for this Court,—are borrowed from the

luxurious shawls and weavings of Cashmere, which the Arabs hung up in their tents before the tent-pole had yet petrified into a stationary column. The flowers they imitate are the flowers of the loom :—their inscriptions are like those on the Jewish phylacteries. Arab Art sprang from the Koran as the Gothic did from the Bible. Everywhere is written ‘Blessing,’—‘God is a sure refuge,’—‘God alone is the conqueror.’ The favourite mottoes of particular kings recur as frequently on these walls as the bees of Napoleon do at Fontainebleau, or the white swan on Edward’s tapestry. In the Alhambra, we see much of the old severity of the Mohammedan ordinances relaxed for the purpose of architectural decoration. On one ceiling, ten Moorish kings are portrayed ; in another, there are frescoes of Moorish knights routing their Christian foemen, or rescuing ladies from hairy Orsons, of wood-hunting trains and sports of peace.”

A notice of the Byzantine Court appeared on March 25th.

The Mediæval Court was described on April 8th :—“This Court of Gothic Art should be our own peculiar pride. It is the product of our national mind, and is deeply stamped with our national character and the influences of our history and our climate.....An order of archi-

The
Mediæval.

Types of
architecture.

ture to be great must be national. The Gothic architecture was pre-eminently English. The Egyptian took the Nile plants to ornament his pillars; the Greek plucked the acanthus leaf; the Hindoo gathered the palm: but they used these natural types with a stinting and a niggard hand. It remained for the Northern dweller to regard nature with his childish, earnest love, to carve the hazel bough, and the fern leaf, the rose bud, the lily flower, and the sacred trefoil, the oak branch and its acorns, the hawthorn, the clasping ivy, and the clinging vine, the poppy, the honeysuckle, and the clover. He needed the tutoring of our rain-gloomings and our sunbursts. He needed the teaching of poets who loved nature better than the Greek, for every allusion to nature in a Greek poet might be put in the compass of 'As you like it.' He, first of all men, loved her with a pure, a perfect, and untiring love—learnt, from the long watching for the bud, to regard the leaf with a deeper pleasure, to feel joy synonymous with spring, sober gladness with summer, sadness with autumn, and grief with the frosts of winter. The majestic monotony of an Eastern sun, the weary splendour of Italian azure, the sublime melancholy of eternal snows, could not inspire such love. This love could be learnt only under a changeful sky of storm and shower, of slow

growth, of gradual springs and long winters. We learnt to love nature as no other nation has ever loved her ; no poets have sung of her like ours, no painters have painted her sweetest scenes better or more frequently. Our first builders strove to cover their roofs and walls with the stony verdure of a perpetual spring ; the monks dated their festivals by the re-appearance of flowers, and named them after their saints and martyrs. The monkish builder united under one roof his palace, his home, his shrine, his guest-house, his conclave, his library, and his grave. The Cathedral was the great temple of a whole province. Its painted windows were the poor man's illuminated books, its tombs his sculptured chronicles ; its choral hymns were all that he knew of music, all that he could imagine of the voices of angels ; its incense was that peasant's perfume, wafted to him like the breath of saints ; its grotesques were almost all that he knew of mirth. Once a week, at least, he might live as kings lived, and share the pleasures of princes :—to his eyes its rich glass was flushed with the perpetual sunset of a vision. The sunbeams creeping over its wall were to him the golden shadows of descending spirits, and when the moon came and silvered niche and pillar it must have seemed to that rude, yet not insensible, churl like the glories of a good man's dream.

The
medizæval
cathedral.

The Cathedral was the vassal's concert-hall, his picture-gallery, his library, and his sculpture-room. It taught him, through Art, to love Nature, and, through Nature, to love God. It gratified every sense, and won each sense to religion, purifying and heightening every power. The monk knew that the boor was soonest taught through the eye, so to the eye he first directed his appeal."

English
examples.

The centre of the Court "is filled by beautiful specimens of the Decorated period, &c., from Lincoln, Tintern, Rochester, Lichfield, Hereford, and Westminster,—while life-size statues of saints, martyrs, and kings, from the west front of Wells Cathedral, occupy niches round the walls, above the canopies, oriels and tombs from Ely and Winchester,—and on one side runs a cloister, compiled from various sources, containing at one end Prince Arthur's door from Worcester; and at the other, some rich ornamentation from Ely. The arched entrances to the Court are taken from Lincoln choir. At one end stands a cast of a beautiful lancet-shaped oaken door at Lichfield, covered with iron tracery; remarkable for the smallness of its little rosette flowers, and the bold flow of its lines. Of the tombs, the richest is one of the De Bohuns, whom Bruce clove down at Bannockburn, from Hereford, and the Resurrection

Sepulchre from Horton Church in Lincolnshire. Men who carved these things neither read nor wrote poetry,—but they lived poetry, and their buildings were epics slowly written. They have divided the subject here into three divisions. There is Christ bearing the Cross, and the Magdalene kneeling at his feet;—below are the armed warders of the sepulchre, and above you see merely the feet of Christ, for he is already rising out of sight. In that hard age, such divine thoughts as these came to men like the singing of birds after a tempest.”

Articles on the Renaissance Court followed on April 15th and 22nd, and on the Courts of Modern Sculpture on April 22nd and August 26th.*

The building was opened by Her Majesty on Saturday, the 10th of June:—“A Victoria day—bright and not too bright—one of those thoroughly English days on which cloud contends with sun for mastery—brought out all the varied beauties of the Palace.” The music performed was conducted by Signor Costa. Of this Mr. Chorley writes on June 17th:—“It was interesting as illustrating certain musical facts, of which our experience has no former record. It may be doubted whether a single

The Palace
opened by
Her Majesty.

The music
performed.

* These articles were reprinted by permission, and published by Messrs. Routledge & Sons.

Madame
Novello.

voice has been ever tried in so vast and lofty a chamber before ; thus, the distinct and stately brilliancy of Madame Novello's enunciation of 'God save the Queen,' heard to remote corners of the building, claims commemoration. That purity of intonation is all-powerful on such occasions had been proved to us at the Westminster Abbey Festival,—where the only voice that really told in that large and encumbered space was Madame Stockhausen's — the smallest *soprano* of the company : but the result of this day week was yet more remarkable, if taken in conjunction with another phenomenon of the day. This is, that the 'Hallelujah Chorus,' given by some fifteen or sixteen hundred performers, and in which Handel's orchestra had been reinforced by upwards of two hundred brass instruments, was full enough, but not too loud for its position :—the extra accompaniments only enriching the mass of sound—and not standing out distinct and harsh, as '*extras*' are apt to do in more confined localities. On the one side, it is more than probable that no multiplication of the stringed instruments would have been accompanied by an increased intensity of tone,—on the other, it is certain that all this extraneous brass gave harmony and not disproportion, by serving as the amalgam (to avail ourselves of a figure) which bound together the

The
Hallelujah
Chorus.

separate forces employed in the music. Very remarkable, again, was the absence of reverberation, in the pause before the final chords of the 'Hallelujah,'—the only moment of dead silence, as we heard it remarked, throughout the whole morning. Not the faintest echo, answer, or afterthought was there to interfere with the effect of the final explosion. Yet who would not have imagined that a crystal vault must have given back all manner of *harmonica*-vibrations?—This 'Hallelujah,' thus monstrously strengthened, reminded us of another fact, of which we have been long convinced,—that whereas Handel was able to assemble only dozens of singers and players, he dreamed of countless multitudes; and that, owing to the simple magnificence of their proportions and the inherent grandeur of their ideas, certain of his choruses are capable of any conceivable extension in the scale of execution, provided the area in which they are performed shall admit it. There would be no possibility of building too large a pyramid, were the plain sufficiently wide. In this respect 'the Giant' stands alone among the creators. We cannot fancy any chorus by any other master,—unless it were, possibly, the 'Sanctus,' from Mendelssohn's 'Elijah,'—producing any effect under the circumstances and conditions of the Sydenham per-

formance. The opening of the New Palace, then, has made its peculiar mark in Music,—by working out certain problems, from which conductors and composers may deduce much that is useful,—as well as those Professors who busy themselves over the curiosities of acoustics.”

Society of
Arts
centenary.

The Society of Arts this year celebrated its centenary, the first meeting for its formation having been held on the 22nd of March, 1754. Mr. William Shipley was the originator, and its first president was Viscount Folkestone, whose portrait, painted by Gainsborough in 1776, is now in the rooms of the Society in John Street, Adelphi.

Banquet at
the Crystal
Palace.

The celebration commenced on Monday, the 3rd of July, when a large gathering of the friends of the Society took place at the Crystal Palace at Sydenham. The *Athenæum* on the 8th states: “The members seemed to enjoy the good things of Nature and Art with the strong relish of men who had earned them by good deeds.” Earl Granville, who took the chair at the dinner, remarked that “a Society that feasts only once in a hundred years, helps to qualify the assertion, that Englishmen can do nothing except at a dinner.”

On Tuesday, the 4th, Prince Albert met the members at St. Martin’s Hall to inaugurate the International Educational Exhibition, and the

Athenæum, in giving a description of the Exhibition, says: "If we are really behind our neighbours, not merely as some confidently assert in the provision we make for the education of the people, but also in our mode of teaching those whom we profess to instruct, by all means let it at once be seen and known, that we may be stimulated to immediate improvement. The Educational Exhibition will do more to show us our true position than all the Reports that have been put forth on the subject. We there see at a glance the relative merits of the various Societies and nations represented."

International
Educational
Exhibition.

The exhibits included contributions from the Department of Science and Art; specimens of the five orders of architecture, statues, busts, &c., exhibited by Signor Brucianni; and various objects contributed by the Committee of Council and the National Society. The articles exhibited by the British and Foreign School Society included a good model of the Borough Road School. The Congregational Board of Education sent some beautiful specimens of perspective and mechanical drawing executed by its students. The Ragged School Union sent specimens of workmanship executed by its pupils, consisting of mats, baskets, shoes, and other articles made by boys, and art toys in the shape of dolls' bedsteads and house furniture

English
exhibitors.

made by girls, "all of which deserve great praise." The Home and Colonial School Society was represented by models of schools, and specimens of cotton, silk, linen, iron, copper, tin, and lead in their natural and manufactured states. The asylums for the blind, the deaf and dumb, and idiots also sent contributions of workmanship. Earl Granville sent "an excellent model of a group of school buildings suitable for a large rural village." The Exhibition also included a large collection of books supplied by the leading educational booksellers, and Messrs. Bradbury & Evans exhibited "very beautiful specimens of Nature printing."

Foreign
contributions.

Among the contributions from abroad "those from Norway make decidedly the best show. They consist of drawings, plans, and models of school buildings, apparatus for teaching natural philosophy, stuffed quadrupeds, insects, fishes, and reptiles, maps, and specimens of exercises." America was largely represented by books, maps, and specimens of work done by pupils. The East India Company sent "a very interesting collection of articles,—comprising, among other things, specimens of pottery made at the Madras School of Arts and Industry."

Lectures.

During the Exhibition lectures were delivered by Dr. Whewell 'On the Material Helps of Education'; Prof. Rymer Jones 'On the Micro-

scope'; Mr. Williamson, F.R.S., 'On the Relation of Chemistry and Physics to other Branches of Knowledge'; Mr. T. Huxley, F.R.S., 'On the Relations of Physiological Science to other Branches of Knowledge'; Mr. Harry Chester 'On Mechanics' Institutes'; Mr. J. C. Morton 'On Agricultural Instruction in Parish Schools'; and others, including two by Cardinal Wiseman 'On the Home Education of the Poor.'

Cardinal
Wiseman on
the home
education of
the poor.

The *Athenæum* on August 26th states that the Cardinal gave an account of the proceedings of the Government of France in reference to the popular literature of that country. He explained how "it had been carried on for three hundred years by the *colportage*—how annually from 8,000,000 to 9,000,000 volumes, varying in price from one halfpenny to 10*d.*, had been thus distributed—how little, in the lapse of ages, this literature had changed or been improved—and how, at length, the Government of the present Emperor had resolved to inquire into the character of the works thus circulated, with the view of prohibiting such as it considered noxious or foolish. On the 30th of November, 1852, a commission had been appointed, and, in consequence, the *colporteur* was required to have a stamp of permission on every book that he sold. The publishers had also been invited to send in their

Colportage
in France.

French
popular
literature.

publications to be examined, and approved or rejected. The number of works in consequence submitted had been 7,500 ; and of them three-fourths had been refused permission to be put in circulation. He asked the meeting to imagine, with such a result, the state of the literature infecting every cottage in France, not for five, ten, or twenty, but for the last three hundred years. Many of these books were filled with superstitions, and the exploded fallacies of astrology were still preserved in them as scientific truths. A great void had been created by the withdrawal of these works,—and the question had arisen, how that was to be filled up ? The Government had at first trusted to the exigency of the demand for a supply ; and subsequently, finding that it did not come, had entertained the proposition of instigating men of real genius to prepare works on history, on agriculture, on elementary chemistry, and on other suitable subjects ; but it had been considered dangerous thus to enter on a competition with the ordinary book trade, and the matter was still under consideration.”

The *Athenæum* pointed out that in thus endeavouring to improve popular literature “the Government of the Emperor is merely following up, in its own way, a movement which originated with the Government of General Cavaignac.”

From France the Cardinal passed to England, and, strongly deprecating the vicious character of much of our cheap literature, recommended the subject as one for Parliamentary inquiry. This suggestion the *Athenæum* regards with suspicion. “Such inquiries pre-suppose, and are made with a view to, Parliamentary regulation. The interference of authority—be it that of Parliament or of King—with the liberty of the press can only be accomplished by censorship; and censorship—however consistent with the theory of Churches which own an infallible authority, and with the practice of States which commit absolute power to their executive—can never be tolerated in a country which sanctions free inquiry into all subjects whatsoever. Besides, censorship has always failed to accomplish the object aimed at by the Cardinal. When was our own literature in a state of the most absolute demoralization? To what period do the worst of those books belong which are to be found only on the top shelves of the libraries of curious collectors—books which no woman dares to open? Most of them were published when our press was under a censorship. And can it be alleged that books of a vicious kind have been less numerous in France under a censorship than in our own country without one? Are not many of the worst books which may be found in this country

England:
Parliamentary
inquiry
proposed.

translated or otherwise derived from books first printed in France? Censorship of any kind would not only be opposed to the genius of all our institutions, but would not accomplish the object at which it aims. The true mode of meeting the evil is not by the introduction of Expurgatorial Indexes, but by unlimited freedom and facility of publication.....Circulate the antidote more widely than the poison,—spread education in every direction,—let the whole country be pervaded with a cheap and wholesome literature,—and the result need not be feared. The doctrines of virtue and honesty, as opposed to those of the sensualist and the pander, are the doctrines of common sense, which in the end is certain to prevail.”

Financial
result of
the
Exhibition.

The Exhibition remained open until the 2nd of September. The expenses, with the accompanying lectures, conversazioni, conferences, &c., amounted to about 2,500*l*. Towards this sum the subscriptions exceeded 1,000*l*., but although the fees received for admission were considerable, there still remained a deficit of about 400*l*. to be made up by the Society.

Membership
of the
Society.

The members of the Society, who numbered 1,418 in 1854, had increased to 3,656 in 1885.

Aluminium.

The *Athenæum* of February 18th, 1854, draws attention to the experiments made with aluminium. The existence of the metal, “the base of

alumina, or pure clay, has been long known. M. Wöhler obtained aluminium in the state of powder, by treating the chloride of aluminium with potassium. M. H. Sainte-Claire Deville, of the Normal School of Paris, has been conducted by a careful study of this body to the discovery of a process comparatively simple, by which this metal may be obtained. If we take a mass composed of the chloride of aluminium and some metal, and heat it in a porcelain crucible to bright redness, the chloride is decomposed, and there remains a saline mass, in the middle of which we find globules of perfectly pure aluminium. This metal is as white as silver, and in the highest degree malleable and ductile. It is completely unalterable in either dry or moist air,—retaining its brilliancy under conditions in which zinc and tin tarnish. It is quite unaffected by sulphuretted hydrogen gas; cold water has no action on it and it remains untarnished in boiling water. Several of the acids only attack it with difficulty—but it is readily dissolved in hydro-chloric acid, forming a sesqui-chloride of aluminium. The specific gravity of this metal is 2·56: therefore, it is not heavier than glass. This metal existing most abundantly in nature—every argillaceous compound containing it—and possessing the above remarkable properties, must become of value in the arts.”

Thomas Noon
Talfourd.

The number for March 18th contains an obituary notice of Thomas Noon Talfourd, who had died of apoplexy at Stafford on the previous Monday, while delivering his charge to the grand jury. He was in his sixtieth year, having been born on the 26th of January, 1795. His father, Edward Talfourd, was a brewer at Reading, and his mother was the daughter of a dissenting minister named Thomas Noon. In his youth he proved his possession of the literary temperament, but the disposition was not encouraged. "The atmosphere of dissent was about the young poet. His reading was restrained ; Shakspeare was banned from the home in which he lived ; and the only dramatic works to which he had access were Hannah More's attenuated 'Sacred Dramas.'.....Among his earliest offerings to the Muse were verses on the liberation of Sir Francis Burdett from the Tower." He was sent to school first at Mill Hill, and afterwards to the Grammar School at Reading, then under the direction of Dr. Valpy. At eighteen he began his studies of law under the eminent pleader Mr. Chitty. In 1821 he was called to the Bar, and joined the Oxford Circuit. In 1833 he got his silk gown, and in 1835 entered Parliament for his native town ; he was ousted by the Tory candidate in 1841, but was re-elected in 1847, and was elevated to the

Bench in 1849. His tragedy 'Ion' was privately printed in April, 1835, and was produced in May of the following year by Mr. Macready at Covent Garden with success. 'The Athenian Captive' and 'Glencoe' followed the first and most successful effort. His other literary labours included 'Vacation Rambles,' a life of Charles Lamb, and a biographical memoir of Mrs. Ratcliffe. "Most of the established magazines received his aid. He reported law cases for the *Times*;—he discoursed in the *New Monthly* on men, things, and theatres;—he reviewed books in the *Edinburgh*. . . . One of his services to criticism is too important not to be referred to now and to be remembered hereafter :—his vindication of Wordsworth's poetical claims. This was in 1815; while Shelley was still living, and Byron was in the full summer of his genius, the young critic boldly maintained that the author of 'Peter Bell' was the greatest poet of his time. No doubt this was an exaggeration; but the assertion claimed attention, led to discussion, and in the course of a few years, critical opinion. . . . came round to his erratic view, though it was impossible for such a judgment to be laid up in the minds of men as final."

' Ion.'

Vindication
of
Wordsworth.

Reference is made on April 8th to the Stamp Returns, which had been held back for three years, but were now issued to the public: "Our

The Stamp
Returns.

concern with these Returns is small compared with that of many of our brethren. As our readers know, the *Athenæum* is not a stamped publication,—though for postal convenience a small portion of our weekly impression is issued on stamped paper. This brings us into the list prepared by the Government, without in any way indicating the extent of our circulation. It is not our habit to obtrude our personal affairs on public notice: our position, happily, does not need that we should blow our own trumpet in the public ear; and we shall say no more about our influence and resources than the Government Returns have already said for us. In these, we find that in 1851 the *Athenæum* required 128,000 stamps; in 1852 the number rose to 140,000; and in 1853 it was 147,000. The appreciation of our labours shown in this steady increase of support from without in that portion of our issue which has to find its way into nooks and corners of the world, where newsmen are scarce and booksellers are not—to the firesides of readers too impatient for the literature of the day to wait for our Monthly Parts—will, we think, be as gratifying to those for whom we toil as it is unquestionably to ourselves. Expressing, as we have a right to do in common with the reader, our feelings at the ever-expanding circle of usefulness in which it is our pleasure and our

Increasing
circulation
of the
Athenæum.

duty to be employed,—we shall leave those who are interested in the matter to draw their own inferences from the facts set forth in these Returns.”

The death of Prof. Wilson, the “Christopher North” of *Blackwood's Magazine*, is noticed in the same number. He had died at Edinburgh on the 3rd of April, in his sixty-ninth year.

The death is recorded on April 15th of George Newport. In early life, while engaged in business in his native town of Canterbury, his mind was directed towards scientific pursuits, and on the establishment of a Natural History Museum at Canterbury the habits and tastes of young Newport at once pointed him out as the person for the post of curator. Eventually his fondness for anatomical and physiological pursuits induced him to enter the medical profession. His first paper was on the nervous system of the *Sphinx Ligustri*, and on the changes which it undergoes during a part of the metamorphoses of the insect. This paper was read before the Royal Society, and was afterwards published in the *Philosophical Transactions*. “It was no sooner known than it gave its author a first rank amongst anatomical and physiological observers. This paper was distinguished for the minuteness and delicacy of the facts investigated, as well as for the laborious

Prof. Wilson.

George
Newport.

The *Sphinx*
Ligustri.

and conscientious manner in which its author detailed the various parts in the organization at different periods of its growth of the insect to which it was devoted. His reputation as the author of this paper was founded, not on the fact that he had laboriously dissected one insect, but that on examining accurately one member of a series, he had illustrated to a greater or less extent the structure of the whole series. The honour conferred on Lyonnnet by posterity for his diligent dissections of a single caterpillar, can be fairly claimed for Newport for his paper on *Sphinx Ligustri*. After the publication of this paper, he still directed his attention to the structure and functions of insects. Amongst his numerous contributions to the Transactions of our scientific Societies and the pages of our journals, will be found papers on the respiration and temperature of insects. In these papers he displayed great ingenuity in devising experiments upon subjects, the investigation of which is naturally attended with considerable difficulty. The results explained in these researches are highly interesting, as confirming the general laws of the developement of animal heat as observed in higher animals. His researches on the structure and developement of the blood in insects, may be pointed out as amongst the earliest contributions to our

Respiration
and tempera-
ture of insects.

knowledge of the morphology of the blood corpuscle. A series of papers on the reproduction of lost parts, as the legs, in various forms of insects and spiders, may be also pointed out as characteristic of his power of observation and the value of his researches. In these papers he first drew attention to the analogy between the structure and developement of the external skeleton of the articulate animals, and the internal skeleton of the vertebrata.....At first sight such researches as those of Mr. Newport could scarcely be deemed capable of practical application; but we find him engaged in researches upon the anatomy, habits, and economy of the saw-fly of the turnip; and obtaining for his researches on this subject the prize of the Entomological Society, and a prize from one of the earliest and most useful of our agricultural associations, that of Saffron Walden in Essex. His observations on the habits of insects were numerous. These are well illustrated in his papers on various parasitic insects, especially those attacking the honey and other bees. In this department of entomological inquiry he has contributed by far the largest and most important group of facts extant."

Practical
application
of his
researches.

Mr. Newport was elected President of the Entomological Society in the years 1844 and 1845. In 1846 he became a Fellow of the

Royal Society, and twice received the Royal Medal. Mr. Newport died on the 6th of April of a fever contracted in the marshy grounds about Shepherd's Bush, where he had spent a considerable portion of a day in procuring a supply of living frogs for the purpose of observing the changes undergone in the ovum of the frog during its development.

Cause of his
death.

Prof.
Jameson.

Prof. Robert Jameson died on the 10th of April. Born at Leith on the 11th of July, 1773, he was educated for the medical profession, but abandoned it at an early period for the study of mineralogy. The obituary notice on the 29th of April states: "So ardently was this science pursued by him, that finding himself unable, in Scotland, to obtain all the knowledge of a pursuit which was then assuming much importance under the directing mind of Werner, he placed himself as a student at Freyburg, in Saxony, where he remained for two years. Werner had here established his school, and Jameson, under his guidance.....became thoroughly imbued with the Wernerian philosophy, which he clung to amidst the conflicts amongst the disciples of the new hypothesis with much zeal, constantly devoting his pen to the defence of his master. On his return from Freyburg in 1804, Robert Jameson was appointed Regius Professor of Natural History in the University

of Edinburgh, Lecturer on Mineralogy, and Keeper of the Museum. To the duties connected with these important appointments Professor Jameson devoted himself with all the zealous energy of an active mind, until the infirmities of age compelled him to a comparative repose."

Under the operation of his practical mind a collection of geological and mineralogical specimens of the most complete character had been formed. All of these specimens were arranged by his own hands. They included nearly 40,000 specimens of rocks and minerals, geographically arranged; 10,000 specimens of fossils; 8,000 birds; 900 fishes and reptiles; a very large collection of insects; 300 specimens of recent shells. "In 1819, Prof. Jameson, in connexion with Dr. (now Sir David) Brewster, commenced the publication of *The Edinburgh Philosophical Journal*; which has been regularly published quarterly since that time. At the end of the tenth volume, Jameson became the sole editor; and he conducted it to the day of his death with great ability."

His
collections.

On the same date it is announced that Mr. Rowland Hill has been appointed secretary to the Post Office, on Col. Maberly's removal to the Audit Office.

Rowland
Hill.

James Montgomery died on the 30th of April.

James
Montgomery.

The *Sheffield*
Iris.

He was born at Irvine, in Ayrshire, on the 4th of November, 1771. When he was seventeen he came to London, and, introducing himself by means of a MS. volume of poems to Mr. Harrison, of Paternoster Row, was for eight months a clerk in that gentleman's office. The *Athenæum* of May 6th states that in 1792 Montgomery commenced "that connexion with the *Sheffield Register*, subsequently the *Sheffield Iris*, which lasted during so many years of his active life, and which, towards its commencement, introduced him to some of his hardest experiences. For the young days of Montgomery's journalism were hard times for persons who professed liberal opinions and tendencies. Mr. Gales, the proprietor of the *Sheffield Register*, drew down Government aversion on his paper: and, to avoid prosecution, found it necessary to leave England; and though Montgomery, who succeeded him, is said to have been more temperate in his editorship, he was also more gifted, and therefore more obnoxious. A political ballad which was published at the *Iris* office 'in commemoration of the destruction of the Bastile,' being taken as pretext, Montgomery was laid hold of;—convicted of sedition, and imprisoned in York Castle for three months, in 1795. In the year following, a report in his paper of a Sheffield riot, during which two men were killed

by the soldiery, was found to warrant a libel prosecution, conviction, and a second imprisonment of six months.....About nine years after this second imprisonment, James Montgomery commenced his career as a popular writer, by publishing 'The Wanderer of Switzerland,' which appeared in 1806. It was the fortune of this poem to be attacked in the *Edinburgh Review*, and to be warmly defended by Byron.—'The Wanderer' was followed by 'The West Indies,' 'The World before the Flood,' 'Greenland,' and 'The Pelican Island,' at considerable intervals. Montgomery also produced prose, lectured on poetry, and won for himself not merely a local popularity among the worthies of Yorkshire as 'a good man and true,'—but a place and a pedestal among the authors of England."

On the same date reference is made to a society recently formed of gentlemen interested in the history, collection, and peculiarities of curious books, "which has assumed for its name the *Philobiblon*, the term used by Richard de Bury to designate such pursuits.....The Society consists of thirty Members, with Prince Albert as Patron, the Earl of Gosford as President, and two Joint-Secretaries, the Belgian Minister and Mr. Monckton Milnes."

The
Philobiblon
Society.

It is also stated that Capt. FitzRoy, R.N., has been appointed superintendent of the newly

- Capt. Fitz Roy and meteorological observations.
Lieut. Maury, created office for analyzing and tabulating the uniform system of meteorological observations made by ships. "This is an important result of the excellent proposition made by Lieut. Maury, on the part of the United States Government, for an extensive international series of maritime meteorological observations on a uniform plan."
- Mr. William Pickering. The following notice of Mr. William Pickering appears on the 13th of May:—"The well-known publisher, Mr. William Pickering, died at Turnham Green, on the 27th ult., aged fifty-eight. His death was preceded by a long and painful illness, produced originally by mental anxiety arising from a tedious litigation, which ended in his ruin, and from severe affliction in his family. In early youth, Mr. Pickering was apprenticed to John and Arthur Arch, the Quaker publishers and booksellers, of Cornhill, in 1810; and commenced business for himself in a small shop in Lincoln's - Inn - Fields in 1820, where he published the first of a series of miniature Latin and Italian classics so beautiful and correct as fairly to entitle him to adopt the Aldine device on the titles of his future publications; which as all readers and collectors know, included the carefully edited British Poets, Bacon's Works by Montague, the Bridgewater Treatises, Walton's Angler illustrated by Inskipp and Stothard, the works of Herbert, Taylor,

Milton, and many others. The application of dyed cotton cloth instead of paper for boarding new books, was first made by him in 1825. The experiment was continued in the issue of the Oxford Classics—as also in the reprints of Hume and Smollett, Gibbon, Robertson and Johnson. Mr. Pickering's taste and judgment in printing and bookbinding were only exceeded by his extensive knowledge of rare and curious books. This knowledge, rarer in booksellers than it was formerly, united to the most perfect integrity, gained for him, through life, the friendship and esteem of all classes of book-loving people. It may be said of William Pickering—as William Pickering remarked when his friend Thomas Rodd died—that he took much knowledge of old books out of the world.”

On the 20th of May it is reported that a university is to be founded immediately at Melbourne, and that Sir J. Herschel, the Astronomer Royal, and Prof. Malden have been appointed a scientific and literary committee to investigate the qualifications of candidates applying for the various professorships which are to be attached to the university. “The salaries of these officers are fixed at 1,000*l.* per annum exclusive of a residence, which will be provided by the colony.”

Melbourne
University
founded.

The annual visitation of the Royal Observatory took place on June 3rd. Mr. Airy in his

The Royal
Observatory.

Time signal
balls.

previous report had alluded to the erection of a time signal ball at Deal, to be dropped every day by a galvanic current from the Royal Observatory, and the *Athenæum* of June 10th says :—"The ball has now been erected by Messrs. Maudslay & Field, and the galvanic connexion with the Observatory, through the telegraph wires of the South-Eastern Railway, is perfect. The automatic changes of wire communications are so arranged that, when the ball at Deal has dropped to its lowest point, it sends a signal to Greenwich to acquaint Mr. Airy, not with the time of the beginning of its fall (which cannot be in error), but with the fact that it really has fallen. The ball has several times been dropped experimentally with perfect success, and some small official and subsidiary arrangements alone are wanting for bringing it into constant use. No step has yet been taken for the galvanic determination of the longitude of the Oxford Observatory, but the necessary preparations within that building are now complete. The normal clock, with its small adjusting apparatus, has been in constant use. It drops the Greenwich ball and the Strand ball ; it sends daily signals along several railways, and it maintains in sympathetic movements various clocks by galvanic currents. Among other clocks thus moved, one is in

the chronometer-room, one at the Observatory entrance gate, and one at the South-Eastern Railway offices, London Bridge.....The beautiful system of registering magnetical and meteorological changes by means of photography continues to be employed, and efforts have been made to multiply copies of the Photographic Registers."

Registering
magnetic
changes.

On the 14th of January the *Athenæum* gave a full account of the experiments by which the precise difference of longitude between the observatories of Greenwich and Brussels had been ascertained. "A wire was laid from the telegraph office in Brussels to a galvanic needle near the transit-clock in the Brussels Observatory: so that an unbroken metallic communication was made from the transit-room at Greenwich, through the Dover and Ostend wire, to the transit-room at Brussels; and the risks attending the conveyance of chronometers were absolutely removed. Batteries were contributed by the Submarine and European Company, at Brussels, and by the Electric Telegraph Company, at Greenwich. An assistant of the Brussels Observatory was sent to Greenwich, and an assistant of the Greenwich Observatory to Brussels; and, when half the operation was thus completed, the assistants returned to their original posts for the completion of the remaining part.....The result

Longitude of
Brussels,

of these arrangements is, that about 3,000 signals have been observed simultaneously at the two Observatories, for the comparison of the two transit-clocks. The whole of these are available for certain physical determinations, one of which is the time occupied by the passage of the galvanic pulse from Greenwich to Brussels, or *vice versâ*. As far as the observations have yet been reduced, it appears that this time is pretty accurately *one-tenth of a second*. Rapid as is the velocity which this implies (about 2,700 miles per second, supposing the velocity uniform along the whole line), it is much less than that found in the experiments with Edinburgh (about 7,600 miles per second), and still less than that determined on some of the American lines (about 18,000 miles per second). The difference undoubtedly depends on the circumstance that the greater part of the line to Brussels is subterranean and submarine, which position of the wires, without in any degree impairing the insulation (which, perhaps, is the most perfect in the world), does, by an ill-understood effect of induction, greatly retard the speed of transit. The whole of the signals were not, however, available for measuring the difference of longitude. In order to ascertain this difference, it is necessary not only to compare the two transit-clocks by the galvanic signals, but also to dis-

Electric
velocity.

cover the relation of the time shown by each transit-clock to the sidereal time at its locality, by means of observations of the meridian passages of stars. Considering the perfection of the galvanic comparisons of clocks, the astronomers laid it down as a fundamental principle, that none of these comparisons should be retained as valid unless the meridian passages of stars had been observed at both stations very shortly before or after the comparisons. The result of this weeding-out is that about 1,000 signals are left available for the measure of difference of longitude, in combination with about 150 nearly simultaneous observations of meridian passages of the same stars at the two Observatories, on seven days. There can be no doubt that this determination will be very greatly superior in accuracy to any determination of difference of longitude hitherto made."

On September 16th the result is given of similar experiments for determining the precise difference of longitude between the observatories of Greenwich and Paris: "The difference in longitude between Greenwich and Paris was first ascertained by surveys made carefully and at great expense, by the Governments of England and France in 1787; and whatever the accuracy or the contrary of the deductions on this special point, their proceedings had one

Longitude of
Paris.

Rocket
experiments.

important result, for they led to the construction of our Ordnance maps. It has been always considered advisable amongst scientific men, that the results thus arrived at respecting the longitude should be verified by a series of experiments of a different kind. In 1825 an attempt was made by the Governments of the two countries to accomplish the desired verification by rocket signals, but this experiment failed entirely. Other endeavours have been made by private persons, but without any conclusive results. The success of the submarine telegraph afforded an opportunity for new experiments. The telegraph and railway companies placed their wires at the gratuitous service of the Astronomer Royal, on the British side, and of M. Arago, and since his death at that of M. Le Verrier as superintendent of the Paris Observatory, on that of France. A system of signals was organized, several thousand signals were interchanged, so many, in fact, as to permit of the rejection of the larger portion, retaining only those (to the number of nearly 2,000) which were considered to be made under unexceptionable circumstances. It is unnecessary, therefore, to say that no comparison can be made between the difference of longitude concluded from the former observations, and that found from the mass of the late signals.

'The former determination is now shown to be erroneous,' remarks Prof. Airy, 'by almost a second of time (a large quantity in astronomy), and this correction is nearly certain to its hundredth part. For this gain of accuracy, this veritable advance of science, we are indebted, in the first instance, to the power of commercial association,' under which the South-Eastern Railway Company, the Submarine and Electric Telegraph Companies have been brought into successful action. In their encouragement of this scientific object, these companies have shown themselves to be influenced by most liberal and praiseworthy considerations."

Miss Brightwell's 'Memorials of the Life of Amelia Opie' is reviewed on June 10th and 17th. "The cheerful, kind-hearted, sentimental Mrs. Opie.....appears to have been as happy in the love of many friends as in the sweet temper which attracted the circle around her.....The history of female authorship in England, at the close of the eighteenth and the commencement of the nineteenth century, cannot be perfectly written without reference to Miss Brightwell's 'Memorials.'"

'Siluria: the History of the Oldest Known Rocks containing Organic Remains,' by Sir Roderick Impey Murchison, is reviewed on July 1st. "The leading object of this work is to

Memorials of
Amelia Opie.

'Siluria,' by
Sir Roderick
Murchison.

The Silurian System. establish in geological science the Silurian System as the earliest rocks yielding evidences of organic life. If any of our readers are unfamiliar, either with the term itself, or with the geological conditions to which Sir Roderick has applied the term, a few words in explanation may be allowed in their behoof. In the districts of Hereford, Radnor, and Shropshire, large masses of grey-coloured strata rise out from beneath the Old Red Sandstone ; and these rocks contain fossils differing from any which were known in the superior deposits.—

Origin of the term.

““ I began [says Sir R. Murchison] to classify these rocks. After four years of consecutive labour, I assigned to them (1835) the name Silurian, deriving it from the portion of England and Wales, in which the successive formations are clearly displayed ; and wherein our ancient British people, the Silures, under their King Caradoc (Caractacus), had opposed a long and valorous resistance to the Romans. Having first, in the year 1833, separated these deposits into four formations, and shown that each is characterized by peculiar organic remains, I next divided them (1834–1835) into a lower and upper group, both of which, I hoped, would be found applicable to wide regions of the earth. After eight years of labour in the field and closet, the proofs of the truth of these views were more fully published in the work entitled “The Silurian System” (1839).’

Prof. Sedgwick.

From beneath these Silurian rocks, Prof. Sedgwick supposed a set of rocks, in part fossiliferous and of enormous thickness, to rise up. These

slaty rocks were thought by the Cambridge Professor to exhibit very distinguishing characteristics,—and hence he applied to them the term ‘Cambrian.’ Of these rocks, Sir Roderick Murchison remarks :—

The “Cambrian” rocks.

“‘It was, however, in vain that we looked to the production of a peculiar type of rocks from the “Cambrian” rocks. Silurian fossils were alone found in them, and the reason has since become manifest. The labours of many competent observers in the last fifteen years have proved that these rocks are not inferior in position as they were supposed to be to the lowest stratified rocks of my Silurian region of Shropshire and the adjacent parts of Montgomeryshire, *but are merely extensions of the same strata*; and hence the looked-for geological and zoological distinctions could never have been realized.’

Prof. Sedgwick still supports his original view, and stoutly contends that the Cambrian rocks are older than—and distinct from—the Silurian rocks. Upon this point the geological world is divided: and the present work is the elaboration of all that can be gathered together in support of the Silurian *versus* the Cambrian System.—

“‘It has truly [writes the author of ‘Siluria’] been a subject of deep regret to me that an old and cherished friend, with whom I had long worked in foreign as well as British lands, and whose powerful mind and brilliant eloquence have thrown so much light on the science which we mutually cultivate, should, of late years, have so strenuously objected to this application of the term Lower Silurian.’

The peculiarities of this scientific discussion will eventually furnish materials to some future D'Israeli in his examinations of the Quarrels of Philosophers. For ourselves we are not disposed to side with either party, preferring the neutral ground of observation and criticism."

The works
of Alexander
Pope.

The works of Alexander Pope, edited by the Right Hon. John Wilson Croker, assisted by Peter Cunningham, form the subject of three articles by Mr. Dilke (July 8th, 15th, and 22nd). In the second appears an original poem from a MS. in the possession of Mr. Dilke. "The copy before us is in that beautiful print hand, with copying which Pope all his life occasionally amused himself.—

Original
poem.

A

PARAPHRASE on

Thomas à Kempis; L. 3, C. 2.

Done by the Author at 12 years old.

SPEAK, Gracious Lord, oh speak; thy Servant hears:

For I'm thy Servant, and I'll still be so:

Speak words of Comfort in my willing Ears;

And since my Tongue is in thy praises slow,

And since that thine all Rhetorick exceeds;

Speak thou in words, but let me speak in deeds!

Nor speak alone, but give me grace to hear

What thy cœlestial Sweetness does impart;

Let it not stop when entred at the Ear

But sink, and take deep rooting in my heart.

As the parch'd Earth drinks Rain (but grace afford)

With such a Gust will I receive thy word.

Nor with the Israelites shall I desire
 Thy heav'nly word by Moses to receive,
 Lest I should die : but Thou who didst inspire
 Moses himself, speak thou, that I may live.
 Rather with Samuel I beseech with tears
 Speak, gracious Lord, oh speak ; thy Servant hears.

Moses indeed may say the words, but Thou
 Must give the Spirit, and the Life inspire ;
 Our Love to thee his fervent Breath may blow,
 But 'tis thyself alone can give the fire :
 Thou without them may'st speak and profit too ;
 But without thee, what could the Prophets do ?

They preach the Doctrine, but thou mak'st us do 't ;
 They teach the misteries thou dost open lay ;
 The trees they water, but thou giv'st the fruit ;
 They to Salvation show the arduous way,
 But none but you can give us Strength to walk ;
 You give the Practise, they but give the Talk.

Let them be Silent then ; and thou alone
 (My God) speak comfort to my ravish'd ears ;
 Light of my eyes, my Consolation,
 Speak when thou wilt, for still thy Servant hears.
 What-ere thou speak'st, let this be understood :
 Thy greater Glory, and my greater Good !”

On July 8th an account is given of the sale by Messrs. Sotheby & Wilkinson of one of the largest collections of coins in private hands. The most remarkable coin in the series was a pattern in gold of Charles I. “It is believed to have been proposed for a five-pound gold piece, which was never struck. On one side it had a bust,

Sale of
 coins.

bare-headed, in armour, with lace collar; reverse, a fine boldly-struck garnished shield, with the royal arms inscribed, 'Florent Concordia Regna.' This piece sold for 260*l.*, the highest price any single coin has ever brought. This curious piece is said to have been presented by Charles the First to Bishop Juxon on the scaffold on the morning of execution." The sale produced 7,054*l.* 8*s.*

First
Saturday
half-holiday
in the
"Row."

Saturday, July 22nd, was a memorable day for booksellers' assistants. The *Athenæum* for July 29th announces with pleasure that the half-holiday movement has received the sanction of the leading houses in the "Row." "With a few exceptions, the literary houses closed on Saturday last at five o'clock,—and we hear that several firms have expressed their intention to close at two o'clock on Saturdays, so soon as all the necessary arrangements are completed."

Death of
Lord
Jocelyn.

On August 19th the death of Lord Jocelyn on the 12th is noted as "an event in literature. It will be remembered that he accompanied our Expedition into the Celestial Empire, and published, in 1841, a little volume, entitled 'Six Months with the Chinese Expedition.' It is melancholy to think that the loss of this gallant nobleman, at the age of thirty-eight, is the result of the removable unhealthiness of a particular district of the metropolis. With the true spirit of

an English officer, although at the time unwell, he determined to share the risk of cholera with his regiment of Essex Rifles, stationed at the Tower, and fell a victim to that determination.....Lord Jocelyn's regiment is to be removed to Canterbury:—we hope from an unwillingness to expose the men unnecessarily to a danger which has been fatal to their commander.”

It is noticed on the 2nd of September that in the telegraphing of the Queen's Speech on the prorogation of Parliament female labour was employed, and the whole was accomplished with unusual celerity. “The girls were superintended by a matron telegrapher. Some of them, it is said, transmitted the speech at the rate of thirty-five words a minute. They sent the whole to the Continent (*via* the Hague) in twenty minutes. The Electric Telegraph Company deserves commendation for setting this example. Why should not women be employed in other analogous cases:—for example, in letter-sorting? The persons who perform that duty at the Post Office seem to have constituted a difficulty in the way of the improvements contemplated by the late Commissioners. Their Report does not contain any evidence that they considered the possibility of employing women in that capacity. Girls who could transmit thirty-five words a minute by electric telegraph would soon outstrip the

First employ-
ment of
women as
telegraphists.

lads whom we now employ in sorting letters. The sorting of sixty letters a minute is, we believe, the greatest feat of dexterity they can accomplish."

William
Henry
Bartlett.

The death of William Henry Bartlett, author of 'Early Days in the Desert,' 'The Nile Boat,' 'Walks about Jerusalem,' and 'The Pilgrim Fathers,' is announced on the 30th of September. He had gone on a visit to the East a few months previously, with the design of inspecting the scenery and artificial remains of the "Seven Churches," and furnishing a series of illustrations for a new work on the subject. But while on his return, and within three days of land, he was seized with a fatal illness on board the French steamer *Egyptus*, and in the course of the following day, the 25th of September, expired. He was in his fifty-sixth year.

Edward
Wedlake
Brayley.

Mention is also made of the death on the 23rd, in his eighty-second year, of Edward Wedlake Brayley, "the well-known antiquary whose 'London' is on all our book-shelves, and whose labours in association with Mr. Britton and Mr. Mantell resulted, as our readers know, in the copious 'History of Surrey,' which bears his name."

The
newspaper
stamp.

The Post Office had issued a new regulation that all papers sent by post *must* have the stamp exposed on the outside, so as easily to catch the

official's eye, and on October 28th it is stated: "In our own case, the *Athenæum* is folded before delivery, to prevent trouble either to the Post Office or to the subscriber."

An obituary notice is given on November 25th of Prof. Edward Forbes, who had died on Prof. Forbes. the previous Saturday, in his thirty-ninth year:

"Amongst the younger men of science few have made so brilliant a career, or given promise of so much in the future, as Edward Forbes."

Born at Douglas, he received there his early education. His love of natural history led him to the medical profession, as affording him a wider field for his favourite pursuit. He accordingly repaired to Edinburgh, where he commenced his career as a medical student in 1830.

"It was in Edinburgh that he may be said to have invented the art of dredging, for till his time it had scarcely been regarded as part of the serious work of the naturalist. He drew attention to the important results that could be obtained by the use of the simple instrument, which had been only employed by fishermen to procure shell-fish. His numerous papers at this time 'On the Structure and Forms of the Marine Invertebrata' attested the value of the dredge, and with it he may be said to have opened a new field of research, if not a new branch of science.....One of the earliest and

Advocates
dredging.

Naturalist
on the
Beacon.

'Travels in
Lycia.'

most important of his systematic works was the result of his dredging labours. This was his 'History of British Star-fishes and other Animals of the Class Echinodermata,' published in 1841.....In 1841 Mr. Forbes obtained the appointment of Naturalist to H.M. Surveying Ship Beacon, which was commissioned to bring from Lycia the marbles brought to light by Sir Charles Fellows. In the spring of 1842 he was occupied with the Rev. Mr. Daniell and Lieut. Spratt in examining the coast and country of Lycia.....An account of their joint labours,—which resulted in the discovery of the sites of eighteen ancient cities,—was afterwards published by Messrs. Spratt and Forbes in their 'Travels in Lycia.' It was during this voyage that Mr. Forbes prosecuted his researches with the dredge in the Ægean, which resulted in the enunciation of the law for the development of animal and vegetable life in the depths of the ocean."

In 1842 he obtained the appointment of librarian and curator to the Geological Society. He occupied this position till his appointment to the Palæontological Department of the Museum of Economic Geology in 1846.

"In 1848 he wrote for the Ray Society a 'The British Naked-eyed Medusæ,' 'Monograph on the British Naked-eyed Medusæ.' This work was beautifully illustrated

from drawings made by himself.....and is one of the most important contributions ever made to this department of natural-history literature. No sooner was this work published than we find him engaging, in conjunction with Mr. Hanley, in the publication of a 'History of British Mollusca.' This work was completed, in four volumes, in 1853. It was not long after his connexion with the Geological Society and Museum of Practical Geology, that the fruits of his closer acquaintance with the facts of geology became apparent. One of the most remarkable contributions to the science of geology in this country appeared in the first volume of the 'Memoirs of the Geological Survey of Great Britain.' This paper, which may be regarded as a work on the subject, is entitled 'On the Connexion between the Distribution of the existing Fauna and Flora of the British Isles, and the Geological Changes which have affected their Area.' In this work the happy combination of great botanical and zoological knowledge is made to bear on some of the most intricate inquiries with regard to the age and relationship of the rocks of Great Britain. From this time the Transactions of the Geological Survey, and the 'Journal of the Geological Society,' were enriched with his papers, all displaying accurate and extensive

'History of
British
Mollusca.'

observation, combined with profound and original thought. Turning to the list of his papers and works on Zoology and Geology, in the 'Bibliography,' published by the Ray Society, we find them amounting to eighty-nine. This list does not comprise his 'Botanical Papers,' or those published since 1850, which together are very numerous."

President of
the Geological
Society.

In 1852 he was elected President of the Geological Society, and in 1853 he was appointed Professor of Natural History at Edinburgh. "He was proud of having attained the position which, as a student, he had hoped one day to fill. He lived to complete but one course of his lectures. But though he is gone, his spirit survives in his works, and these will ever form an important part of the history of natural science during the present century."

Frederick
Knight Hunt.

The death of Frederick Knight Hunt is also recorded on November 25th. Three weeks previously he had been struck with typhus, and he died on the 18th at his residence, Forest Hill, at the premature age of forty. When his father died he was but sixteen, and was the eldest of six children, who, with the mother, were left unprovided for. He held a subordinate situation in the printing office of the *Morning Herald*, and although his nights were occupied with a fatiguing duty, he filled up his days as

clerk to a barrister in the Temple: "For more than three years he never had a continuous night's rest oftener than once a week. He worked literally night and day to support his father's family; which he never wholly ceased to do down to his death. His employer—not overburdened with briefs—asked little more of him than his presence in chambers; but he was not idle there. Every spare shilling was spent in books; and it was during these office hours that he persevered in a course of reading and self-culture, by means of which he afterwards fought his way upward in the world. "His patron, appreciating his literary industry, was induced to give him such introductions as procured for him his first literary engagement, which was with a short-lived morning newspaper. From that time—with the exception of one short interval—he lived by his pen; but, believing that a more distinctly recognized profession was necessary to advancement in life, he studied medicine, and was a contemporary, at Middlesex Hospital, with Mr. Albert Smith, and others who have become known to fame. Mr. Hunt's sanguine and energetic temperament made him a frequent, and not always a successful, projector. One of his projects, *The Medical Times*, still lives—a prosperous periodical. The profits arising from this successful

Starts the
*Medical
Times.*

venture enabled him to pay his fees and to pass the Hall and College as a qualified surgeon. Unhappily, the misconduct of a relative led him into difficulties, which obliged him to part with the property and to take the situation of union surgeon in Norfolk.

“After a year, he returned to London, eking out a practice which he tried to establish by literature. He became sub-editor of the *Illustrated London News*, and afterwards editor of the *Pictorial Times*. When the *Daily News* was started in 1846 Mr. Hunt was selected by Charles Dickens as one of the assistant editors; and, besides his pictorial editorship and attendance upon some resident patients at his house in Greenwich, he found time to write the volumes

‘The Fourth
Estate.’

by which his name is best known, ‘The Fourth Estate: a History of the English Newspaper Press.’ By degrees, however, he devoted himself entirely to the *Daily News*, and, in 1851,

Editor of the
Daily News.

became its editor-in-chief. Mr. Hunt’s manifest defect was his tendency to distribute his mind and his energies over too large a surface, and to undertake too many employments. In the midst of his literary and medical engagements he was always a zealous politician on the Liberal side, and held for a time the office of Secretary to the first London Anti-Corn-Law League. But when once he had allowed his talents fair

play, their strength and power were thoroughly developed. To his unceasing activity, judgment, and literary vigour is principally due the commercial success which the *Daily News*—for so long a time a struggling property—is understood to have at last attained.”

John Gibson Lockhart died at Abbotsford on the 25th of November, in his sixty-first year, and on December 2nd an obituary notice is given. In 1820 Lockhart married Sophia, the eldest daughter of Sir Walter Scott, “the one of all his children who in countenance, mind, and manners, most resembled himself, and who, indeed, was as like him in all things as a gentle, innocent woman can ever be to a great man deeply tried and skilled in the struggles and perplexities of active life. — For a few years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Lockhart lived, under the shelter of the wing of the Great Unknown, at Chiefswood,—a cottage within easy reach of Abbotsford. Towards the close of the year 1825 Mr. Lockhart was invited to London to succeed Mr. Gifford as editor of the *Quarterly Review*, which office he continued to hold till within the last few years,—and, with it, a prominent place in political and literary society. He was in 1843 nominated by Sir Robert Peel Auditor of the Duchy of Cornwall—a sinecure place, with an income of four hun-

John Gibson
Lockhart.

Editor of the
Quarterly.

dred a year—and is understood to have inherited family property on the death of a relative some years ago. His life, therefore, in point of fortune, was clear of those anxieties and vicissitudes which have warped the efforts and embittered the spirits of other men of letters. It was darkened, however, by a singular course of family bereavements. He survived his wife, sister-in-law, brothers-in-law, and his two sons ; he lived to see the vanity of human wishes rebuked, in the return of the lands and house of Abbotsford—to lay together and to build which Scott sacrificed prosperity and life—under the tutelage of that Church which the novelist mistrusted so deeply, however picturesquely he could paint the extinction of its glories in his vision of the Monastery of Kennaquhair !

‘Spanish Ballads.’ Apart from Mr. Lockhart’s position as an editor, his published works would have made him honourably known. His ‘Spanish Ballads,’ by their elegance, have almost become classical among the lovers of ballad-poetry. There are bright pictures of University life in his ‘Reginald Dalton.’ His ‘Valerius’ has an interest in its narrative, and a pomp of melancholy music in its style, which give it a first place among modern fictions of the antique world : it is a romance to be remembered among the ruins of Rome. His ‘Adam Blair’ is no less remarkable

as a domestic story of intense passion. His 'Life of Burns'—written for 'Constable's Miscellany'—has not yet been superseded, though outdone as regards fulness of material by Allan Cunningham's and Mr. Chambers's subsequent biographies of the poet. His 'Life of Scott,' though chargeable with prolixity, is, on the whole, discreetly executed. In doing his best, however, for Sir Walter, the biographer did his worst for Sir Walter's partners the Ballantynes; and his work did not appear without eager remonstrance on the part of their surviving relatives.* This controversy allowed for, it will keep its ground.....till the time shall come when some writer, less hampered by personal considerations, can deal less reservedly with those difficult and delicate passages, which, by the biographers of both poets, were evaded."

'Life of
Scott.'

On the 2nd of December also appears the following in reference to Miss Ferrier:—

"The name of Miss Ferrier, author of three well-known Scottish novels, 'Marriage,' 'Destiny,' and 'The Inheritance,' must be added to the obituary of the year. She was the daughter of

Miss Ferrier.

* 'Refutation of the Misstatements and Calumnies contained in Mr. Lockhart's Life of Sir Walter Scott, Bart., respecting the Messrs. Ballantyne,' by the Trustees and Son of the late Mr. James Ballantyne, appeared in 1838.

a legal gentleman in Edinburgh, intimately acquainted with the Scotts,—was commemorated as a ‘sister spirit’ by the Author of ‘Waverley,’ in one of his early prefaces or leave-takings—and has honourable mention in Lockhart’s Life of the Poet, as a trusted and honoured friend who waited on him during the latter part of his decaying life.—Miss Ferrier appears to have been an authoress by chance rather than habit,—for the three tales named above are, so far as we are aware, the only works by her which have been published. In spite of the character given to them by their homely nationality, they remind us of Miss Burney’s novels, by their humour, by the spirit of their dialogue, and by the manner in which they keep alive the irritation of suspense, through the agency of vulgar and unpleasant personages. Like Miss Burney’s novels, Her novels. Miss Ferrier’s have the merit of being carefully wrought and distinct in the impressions they leave behind them. They contain persons—not ideas and principles dressed up. Years have elapsed since we read them, yet we recollect as familiar friends the virgin sisters three in ‘Marriage,’—the wooing of *Miss Bell* and *the Major*, and the intrusive *Miss Pratt* in ‘The Inheritance.’ In right of these real beings of the fancy, Miss Ferrier’s tales will keep their place by the side of Galt’s ‘Annals of the

Parish,' 'Entail,' and 'Ayrshire Legatees,' and can never be forgotten when the annals of north-country fiction are written."

On the 9th of December a notice appears of Dr. Kitto. Dr. Kitto, who had died at Cannstatt, near Stuttgart, on the 25th of November. His writings aim, directly or indirectly, at the illustration of the Scriptures, and attained a high degree of eminence.

On the same date it is mentioned that "Mr. Albert Smith, recently returned from Switzer- Albert Smith. land with a fresh collection of characters and humours, has recommenced his daily ascents of Mont Blanc, to the renewed delight of overflowing houses."

The sad fate of Sir John Franklin was this year to be revealed. The Admiralty had long given up all hope of the gallant officer being still alive, and but for the persistent efforts of the *Athenæum* and Lady Franklin the official search would, in all probability, have been sooner abandoned. The search for Sir John Franklin.

On Saturday, May 6th, it is stated that the Phoenix screw steamer and her two tenders, the Talbot and Diligence, had departed that morning with stores and provisions for Sir E. Belcher's expedition. The instructions for Sir E. Belcher were as follows:—"If the crews of the Enterprise and Investigator are at Banks' Departure of the Phoenix.

Sir E.
Belcher's
instructions.

Land, they must abandon their ships, and every endeavour should be made to get them to Beechey Island, that they may return to England. If this has already been effected, and Capt. Kellett with his ships has returned from Melville Island, you are immediately to proceed to England with the whole of the ships and their crews, abandoning all further search for the missing ships and their crews, unless any circumstances on consultation with the senior officers should induce you to believe that your remaining out another year would tend to clear up the fate of our missing countrymen. But if Capt. Kellett has been unable to move from his position at Melville Island, it may be necessary to give orders to him to abandon the Resolute and Intrepid and secure his retreat to Beechey Island; but as this cannot be accomplished this year, you need not detain any officers or men who may have already reached Beechey Island, but send them to England forthwith.' Capt. Inglefield, who, it will be remembered, has the charge of taking out the Phoenix with the store ships, is empowered to carry out the above instructions, if on arriving at Beechey Island he should find himself senior officer at that station. We may mention that the Phoenix is supplied with a complete set of photographic apparatus."

On the 5th of August it is notified that the

subscriptions to the Bellot memorial had realized 2,000*l*. "Of that sum 500*l*. will be applied to the erection of a granite obelisk on the wharf of the Royal Hospital at Greenwich.....The remaining sum will eventually be divided equally among the five sisters of the gallant French officer."

Bellot
memorial
fund.

Dr. Rae's sudden return to England is announced on the 28th of October. In Pelly Bay he had fallen in with some Esquimaux, who possessed many small relics of the exploring party of the Erebus and Terror. The dismal story told to Dr. Rae by the Esquimaux was as follows:—"In the spring of 1850, about forty of the ships' companies were seen by some Esquimaux—not Dr. Rae's informants—on the ice near the north shore of King-William's Land. They were going south, and dragging a boat with them over the ice. They looked worn and emaciated; they signed to the natives that their ships had been crushed by the ice; that they were short of food, and were then in search of deer. The natives sold them a small seal, and they went their way—to be seen no more alive. Later on in the year, but before the breaking of the ice, the Esquimaux again came on their encampment:—but not a single soul was living. The story was, however, plainly pictured to their eyes. Thirty bodies were found; some partly

Dr. Rae's
return with
relics.

buried ; some in the tents where they had died ; some under the boat which they had overturned to form a shelter. They had all perished of starvation :—and it was thought that some of the survivors had been driven in the extremity of hunger to the last act of maddened human beings.....We have carefully examined the articles brought home by Dr. Rae, which are at the Admiralty. They consist of about two dozen large silver spoons and forks, a gold chronometer—the cases of which are detached from the works, portions of a telescope, four knives, a Guelphic order belonging to Sir John Franklin, a small circular silver plate bearing that officer's name, which probably served as the head of a walking-stick, one small gold watch-chain, and a fragment of a flannel vest with Le Vescomte's initials in the centre.....Dr. Rae's discoveries certainly add much of interest to the dread story of this Exploring Expedition. But we cannot accept them as the end of the mystery. The suggestion about the last despairing acts of the party seems to us absolutely unwarrantable on the evidence in court. Meanwhile, we rejoice to have it in our power to state that the Admiralty has determined that an Expedition shall be despatched, in the course of a few days—in all probability, during the next week,—for the double object of visiting the locality mentioned

Description
of the relics.

by the Esquimaux as the site of the last resting-place of our unfortunate countrymen and rescuing Collinson. We wish that we could add, that Dr. Rae was to command this Expedition; but, unhappily, the state of his health is such as not to permit him to return to the Arctic regions. There are, however, so many enterprising young Arctic officers able and anxious to conduct an Expedition to the North American shores, that the Admiralty will be at no loss to select an efficient chief."

On November 4th it is stated: "We are glad to learn that the Admiralty have resolved to send out two Expeditions to the Arctic Regions, with a view to clear up the great mystery, made more terrible by Dr. Rae's discoveries: one to descend the Fish River, with the view of searching the region of Point Ogle and Montreal Island; the other to descend the Mackenzie. We trust that one or more of our young enterprising naval Arctic officers will be appointed to the command, and that, in the words of the Admiralty notice, 'by ascertaining the fate of Sir John Franklin,' which Dr. Rae did not remain to settle, the party, or parties, may reap the reward of 10,000*l.*, which is still outstanding."

Admiralty
expeditions.

The *Athenæum* is at last with the greatest reluctance compelled to the belief that Capt. Franklin and his gallant companions must have

The last duty
to
Franklin.

perished, and on November 11th calls upon the nation to perform its last duty towards them: "These gallant men went out into the icy seas to do our bidding—to resolve the problem of centuries: they did not return, and the country sought for them long and hopefully. But even hope at last died out. They have perished now officially, and even to the affections. Their names are no longer on the rolls of the Admiralty, —and their families and friends are now wearing sable. Time has come when the nation may assume its loss. Time, then, has come for a permanent record of this brave and melancholy drama. Our Arctic Explorers should now have their monument. Bellot has his memorial at Greenwich; on the same site—the centre of England's naval glories—should arise a public monument to Franklin and his Companions. Public bounty gave the funds for one:—the same public bounty would not withhold the funds for a second."

Sir John
Franklin.

A few notes in reference to Sir John Franklin may be of interest. He was born on April 16th, 1786, and was present at Copenhagen and Trafalgar. In 1818 he commanded the *Trent* in a North-West expedition. In 1819 he conducted a land expedition for the discovery of the North-West Passage, returning in 1822. He was married in 1823 to Miss Eleanor Porden,

daughter of Mr. Porden the architect. Miss ^{Marries} Mitford relates of her :—"It was during the ^{Miss Porden.} run of 'Julian,' that seeing much of my dear friend Miss Porden (afterwards married to Sir John Franklin), and talking with her of subjects for a fresh effort, one or the other, I hardly know which, hit upon 'Rienzi,' a personage at that time so little familiar to the public, that a great Law Dignitary asked gravely, after seeing the play, whether such a man had ever existed? and another eminent person, gathering from my Preface that the story might be found in Gibbon, produced the *first* volume of the 'Decline and Fall,' actually the FIRST, which he told me he was about to take into the country, in order to compare my delineation with the actual man. Miss Porden had herself written an heroic poem, called 'Cœur de Lion,' which, if anybody now-a-days could read 'an epic two volumes long, would be found remarkable as a promise; so she was far from being startled at my boldness, and took a vivid interest in my attempt. A year or two after, when in London, negotiating about this very play, I saw her again as Mrs. Franklin. Her husband was in Lincolnshire taking leave of his relations before setting forth on one of his adventurous voyages; and, in the midst of her warm and undiminished sympathy with my anxieties, she talked of that husband

'Cour de
Lion.'

whose projects of polar discovery had filled her imagination, showed me his bust and their little girl, and a flag which she was working for him as her own Berengaria had done for Richard. It was poetry in action—epic poetry—and I too sympathised with the devoted wife. But I saw, what at that time her own sister had not suspected, that she was dying. This warm-hearted and large-minded woman was of a frame and temperament the most delicate and fragile. The agitation of parting was too much for her; and before Captain Franklin's expedition was out of the Channel, she was dead."

Her death.

Marries
Jane Griffin.

Franklin sailed on the 16th of February, 1825, and returned in 1827. In the year following he married Miss Griffin. He received the honour of knighthood in 1829, and in 1836 was made Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania). This office he retained until the end of 1843, and when in 1853 Lady Franklin was making every effort for the discovery of her husband, the colonists, out of gratitude for the beneficent rule of Sir John Franklin, contributed the large sum of 1,671*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, the subscribers including all classes. It was on the Queen's birthday in 1845 that he sailed on his last expedition.

On January 20th, 1854, the following announcement appeared in the *London Gazette* :—

*Notice respecting the Officers and Crews of H.M.S.
Erebus and Terror.*

January 20, 1854.

Notice is hereby given, that if intelligence be not received, before the 31st March next, of the officers and crews of H.M. ships Erebus and Terror being alive, the names of the officers will be removed from the Navy List, and they and the crews of those ships will be considered as having died in Her Majesty's service.

By command of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

W. A. B. HAMILTON, Secretary.

Upon the issue of this notice Lady Franklin addressed a long and eloquent protest to the Admiralty against the removal of her husband's name from the books until all search for him terminated. The Admiralty acceded so far to her request as to retain the names until the issue of the List in June, when it was struck off, and his death reported in the obituary notices.

On the 21st of July, 1855, the *Athenæum* states that it has "been favoured with a copy of the inscription written by Lady Franklin for the tablet, now on its way out to the Arctic Regions in the United States Expedition, which is to be placed on Beechey Island. It is a touching memorial, and will be read with interest:—

"To the memory of Franklin, Crozier, Fitzjames, and all their gallant brother officers and faithful companions, who have suffered and perished in the cause of science and the service of their country,—this Tablet is

Lady
Franklin's
inscription.

erected near the spot where they passed their first Arctic winter, and whence they issued forth to conquer difficulties or to die. It commemorates the grief of their admiring countrymen and friends, and the anguish, subdued by faith, of her who has lost in the heroic leader of the Expedition the most devoted and affectionate of husbands. "And so He bringeth them unto the Haven where they would be." 1855. This stone has been intrusted to be affixed in its place by the officers and crew of the American Expedition, commanded by Lieut. H. J. Hartstein, in search of Dr. Kane and his companions.'"

Sir John
Franklin's
death.

It was not until the 22nd of September, 1859, that final intelligence as to Franklin's fate was received. London on that day was startled with a telegraphic despatch from Capt. M'Clin-tock announcing his safe return to England from the mission confided to him by Lady Franklin. Lieut. Hobson, who accompanied the expedition, discovered on the 6th of May, 1859, in the cairn built by the crews of the Erebus and Terror, the tin case containing the record that Sir John Franklin died on the 11th of June 1847.

CHAPTER XII.

THE ATHENÆUM, 1855.

THE books on the Crimea War which appeared in 1855 were less numerous than the compilations of the previous year, but had greater originality and possessed more durable interest. The spectators of the war were returning to describe it, and "their pages are lit by the fires of the recent siege; they glow with the praises of living men; and if they contain censures, they strike at names well known among us."

Books on
the war.

The *Athenæum* on March 3rd states that "at the outbreak of the present war we knew next to nothing about the vast empire of the Turks. We were curiously ignorant of its strength and its weakness. Asia Minor, except the immediate neighbourhood of Smyrna and the Seven Churches, was as unknown to us as Mongolia, and Roumelia was almost as much a *terra incognita* to us as Kochan or the territory of the Oosbeks. We were absolutely unacquainted with the nature of the climate, the produce, and the resources of Turkey. We knew neither the

Ignorance
the cause
of our
disasters.

state of their roads nor the perils of the seas. We had no reliable information respecting the social state or the local customs and government. Hence the sufferings of our armies at Gallipoli and Varna. Hence the fearful wrecks in the Black Sea, which might have been predicted with positive certainty by any observant inhabitant of the coasts which witnessed the destruction of the Prince and the loss of the winter clothing of our troops. Hence the disasters which have pressed so heavily on our legions before Sebastopol. Our curse has been our ignorance. Not that we possessed too many books about the East, but too few, or *none* which contained the information, accessible as it was, which might have saved us from national humiliation and disgrace:—from the needless shedding of our best blood, and from the idle waste of our treasure.”

The war literature included a fourth edition of Sir Howard Douglas’s ‘Treatise on Naval Gunnery,’ in which he pronounced the Alma a fruitless victory and the celebrated flank march a mistake; Mr. W. H. Russell’s letters reprinted from the *Times*; Tegoborski’s ‘Commentaries on the Productive Forces of Russia’; and ‘Five Months in the Camp before Sebastopol,’ by the French official historian the Baron de Bazancourt.

'The Crimea,' by a Lady resident near the Alma, gave the following description of Russian peasant life: "The style of living of the Russian peasant is little removed from that of the brute beasts. Men, women, and children occupy one room, and eat out of one dish; they never take off their clothes, from one week's end to the other, except when they go to the bath; and they sleep on the top of their stoves, on the floor, or in the open air, according to the season, or as chance may require."

Russian
peasants.

Of a translation of Baron Müffling's 'Narrative of my Missions to Constantinople and St. Petersburg in the Years 1829 and 1830' the *Athenæum* said: "The book might be entitled 'Confessions of a Diplomatist.' It is a revelation of trickery, and is important in many respects, but chiefly as it explains the intimate connexion between Russian and Prussian policy, which existed at the date of the Treaty of Adrianople."

Baron
Müffling's
'Missions.'

'Russia on the Black Sea and Sea of Azof,' by H. D. Seymour, M.P., is reviewed on June 23rd: "Among the Tatars Mr. Seymour found many curious and romantic traits of character. As a nation they scarcely survive; but one of their princesses—the celebrated Adel Bey—still lives in her palace in the Crimea. She it was who received Madame de Hell in saloons of exquisite splendour, and showed her the flowers of the

H. D. Sey-
mour's
'Russia on
the Black
Sea.'

Adel Bey.

race—three girls of wondrous beauty and enchanting grace, clad in such attire as Haidée wore in her island, and such as Hafiz might have written of in odes bedropped with allusions to roses, to myrrh, and to the moon. These angels were sprung from the family of gentle natives of which one chief commenced his career by boiling seventy refractory nobles in cauldrons—an invention more successful than Cayenne. But the soil of the Tatar is now possessed by men of different blood. Mr. Seymour describes the Russian workman as a child, who needs to be watched and guided.—

Russian
workmen.

“‘As an instance of this, Col. Upton said, while he was building the dock-gates at Sevastopol, when the stone-work was prepared for the wood, he found to his astonishment that the parts did not fit, although he was certain that his calculations were right, and the work apparently correctly executed. At length he thought of measuring his gauge, and then he found that his Russian workmen, having done their work wrong, cut his gauge to make it appear right, and never thought that there were other parts of the work which must fit in with theirs, and consequently make their error appear.’”

Souvárof's
'Under the
Trigger.'

The following is given from Souvárof's 'Discourse under the Trigger':—

“Push hard with the bayonet ! The ball will lose its way—the bayonet never ! The ball is a fool—the bayonet a hero ! Stab once : and off with the Turk from the bayonet ! Even when he's dead you may get a scratch from his sabre. If the sabre is near your neck, dodge

back one step, and push on again. Stab the second ! Stab the third ! A hero will stab half-a-dozen.....In the attack there is no time to load again. When you fire, take aim at their guts ; and fire about twenty balls."

'Russia as it is at the Present Time,' by James Carr, a Working Man, is thus commended : 'Russia,' by James Carr.

"Not its least merit is in its freedom from prejudice and its fairness of spirit when rendering judgment upon Russian manners and Russian deeds.....Mr. Carr was informed, by some of his Muscovite acquaintances, that their priests told them that England was only a piece of land like a finger-end, just sticking out above the sea, and which might be overflowed or covered any night when there might be an extraordinary rough sea,—which catastrophe, they considered, must at some time happen."

'The War in the East,' by General George Klapka, contained a new plan of operations, embracing six points, thus stated by General Klapka :— General Klapka's 'War in the East.'

"1. The speedy recall of the Crimean Expedition, and the transfer of the principal seat of war in the East to the Danube.—2. The landing of an army in the Baltic provinces and the securing an alliance with Sweden.—3. The restoration of a mighty Poland.—4. The repudiation of Austrian neutrality by summoning her to declare *for* or *against*. And in the event of her joining the enemy—which can scarcely any longer be doubted—the formation of a Danubian Confederation to include all the provinces, not German, along that river, with Hun-

gary as their centre.—5. The simultaneous liberation of Italy.—6. The employment of all the Turkish forces in Asia.”

The war
pamphlets.

The war pamphlets formed “a body of fierce and pungent crimination. They resemble the separate counts of a great indictment,—one impeaching the Cabinet of France,—another asking for a verdict against Prussia,—a third charging the English Government with high crimes and misdemeanours,—and a fourth imputing recklessness, without daring, to the Earl of Lucan.” The last pamphlet was entitled ‘The British Cavalry Action at Balaklava,’ by “a Cavalry Officer,” in reply to Lord Lucan’s defence. General Bacon ultimately avowed himself to be the author, upon which Lord Lucan wrote to him to withdraw the “calumnious pamphlet from circulation.” This the General declined to do, when Lord Lucan at once published the entire correspondence, a review of which appears in the *Athenæum* on September 8th. “As regards Lord Lucan, the clouds which seemed to be gathering darkly around his fame are gradually moving away. At all events, his statements and explanations—excusably warm, in a case so profoundly affecting his honour and his courage, the most precious treasures of a soldier—have put his alleged calumniators on their guard. No longer the accused, he has become

Lord Lucan
and General
Bacon.

in turn an accuser: so that those who most loudly impeached his valour and ability are challenged to substantiate the charges which they voluntarily made, or abide the constructions which the public are not slow to place on the conduct of those who lack the 'courage of their opinions.'"

The literature of the year includes the third and fourth volumes of Macaulay's 'England'; Keightley's 'Life of Milton'; the third and fourth volumes of the Duke of Buckingham's 'Memoirs of George the Third'; the sixth volume (completing the work) of Mrs. Green's 'Lives of the Princesses of England'; 'The Literary Life and Correspondence of the Countess of Blessington,' by R. R. Madden; Lady Holland's memoir of Sydney Smith; Tennyson's 'Maud'; the completion of Thackeray's 'Newcomes'; Kingsley's 'Westward Ho!' and the first number of Charles Dickens's 'Little Dorrit.'

Literature of
the year.

The death of Miss Mitford is noticed on the 13th of January. "After a long period of decline and helpless suffering, cheerfully borne, the Author of 'Our Village' died at Swallowfield Cottage, near Reading, on Wednesday last, aged—as a memorandum furnished by herself some years ago assures us—sixty-six years. She was born in 1789, at Alresford, in Hampshire. Her mother was an heiress and the

Miss Mitford.

daughter of Dr. Russell of Ashe, in Hampshire—a man of scholarship and letters. Her father—belonging to the Mitfords of Northumberland—was, as her own ‘Reminiscences’ have told us, a sanguine, cheerful and speculative man—who tried physic, played at whist, spent every one’s money, and something more, and made every living creature about him love him, lend to him and forgive him. To this love and to his extravagance his daughter’s life was sacrificed. Every fortune that came in his way—including a 20,000*l.* prize, won in the lottery—was wasted—gaily and plausibly—by Dr. Mitford ; and while yet a girl, with all the impulses of a poetess, but with all the reserve of an old-fashioned gentlewoman, strong within her, his daughter was placed in the position of one who had to ‘stave off’ want and sorrow from the parent to whom she was devoted, by turning her choice and peculiar gifts to account in authorship.....She was a faithful and cheering friend to those she loved. She bore up against the trials of a hard and ill-understood life with a sweetness and vivacity such as could have made strangers imagine that there was nothing to bear. She was well read in old English and in French literature. Not long after her father’s death, her own health, which had been shaken by her dutiful attendance on him, began to fail ;

Her devotion
to
her father.

and the illness which carried her away was slow, painful, and dispiriting. But her sweetness of temper and her brightness of mind never failed her to the last ; since, only a few hours before the news of her decease reached her friends, they had received from her greeting and tokens in her own handwriting,—showing not merely that the old kind heart was not soured by suffering, but that her sympathies had not been contracted by narrow fortunes, age, and pain. There are few of whom surviving friends will long think so affectionately and so cheerfully as of Mary Russell Mitford. Her name has an honoured place in the library of healthy and real English literature.”

On the same date the death is recorded of Mr. W. R. Macdonald, once the editor and joint proprietor of *Bell's Life in London*, the *Sunday Herald*, the *British Drama*, the *Literary Humourist*, &c., and a contributor to the columns of various newspapers. Mr. Macdonald wrote some controversial works of a serious kind and a number of children's books.

Mr. W. R.
Macdonald.

It is stated in the same number that “the Admiralty have recently published a large chart of the Arctic Regions, in which the justice, which we long since advocated, has been rendered to the Americans, by substituting the name of ‘Grinnell’ for Albert Land.” The

Large chart
of the Arctic
Regions.

name of the entire island discovered by Capt. M'Clure, which he had called Baring, "has also been very properly altered to Banks Land, it being part of the land originally discovered and named by Parry. The southern portion of the island is named Baring Land in compliment to Sir F. Baring."

British and
foreign rates
of postage.

In 1843 a convention was arranged between England and France by which the postage of a letter going to or passing through France could be prepaid, and international accounts were kept between Great Britain and the French Government. Previous to this the foreign rates of postage could not be prepaid in Great Britain. On the 1st of January, 1855, the Emperor of the French by a new postal treaty with England reduced the postage upon prepaid letters to France from 8*d.* to 4*d.*, and the *Athenæum* on the 3rd of February gives the first two columns of the following table, showing the full postage on foreign letters in 1835 and 1855. The third column gives the postal charge in 1886:—

	1835.	1855.	1886.
France	2 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>	4 <i>d.</i>	2½ <i>d.</i>
Luxembourg	4 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	8 <i>d.</i>	2½ <i>d.</i>
Baden	4 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	8 <i>d.</i>	2½ <i>d.</i>
Holland	3 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>	8 <i>d.</i>	2½ <i>d.</i>
Prussia	4 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	8 <i>d.</i>	2½ <i>d.</i>
Bavaria	4 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	8 <i>d.</i>	2½ <i>d.</i>
Württemberg	4 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	8 <i>d.</i>	2½ <i>d.</i>

	1833.	1855.	1886.
Switzerland.....	3s. 4d.	8d.	2½d.
Germany.....	4s. 4d.	8d.	2½d.
Sardinia	4s. 2d.	10d.	2½d.
Sicily	4s. 2d.	13d.	2½d.
Tuscany	4s. 2d.	13d.	2½d.
Papal States	4s. 2d.	13d.	2½d.
Austria	4s. 4d.	13d.	2½d.
Northern States.....	4s. 4d.	13d.	2½d.
Turkey	4s. 2d.	12d.	2½d.

A review appears on March 3rd of John Timbs's 'Curiosities of London,' in which the following quotation in reference to the Needle-makers' Company is given :—

"The Needlemakers' is the only City Company not incorporated by a crowned head, they having received their Charter from Cromwell in 1656. They have no Hall, but these characteristic arms : *vert, three needles in fess argent, each ducally crowned or* : crest, a Moor's head, couped at the shoulders, in profile proper, wreathed about the temples argent, and in his ear a pearl (the crest originally was an apple-tree and serpent) ; supporters, a man and woman (termed Adam and Eve), wreathed round the waist with leaves, all proper, in the woman's dexter hand a needle argent ; motto, 'They sewed fig-leaves together and made themselves aprons.' Stow tells us that needles were sold in Cheapside in the reign of Queen Mary, and were then made by a Spanish negro, by a secret art ; they are also said to have been made in London by a native of India, in 1545 ; and by one Elias Krause, a German, in 1566. Needles were first made, or rather finished, in White-chapel, by one Mackenzie ; hence the cry of 'White-chapel needles, twenty-five for a penny.' The trade then removed to the borders of Warwickshire and Worcester-

The Needle-makers' Company.

shire; but Whitechapel labels are still used, and the fame of 'Whitechapel sharps' has reached the interior of Africa."

'English,
Past and
Present,' by
R. C. Trench.

'English, Past and Present: Five Lectures,' by R. C. Trench, B.D., is reviewed on March 10th: "Our recollection of the pleasure afforded by the perusal of Mr. Trench's little volume 'On the Study of Words' led us to expect much from his present one on a kindred subject; nor have we been at all disappointed. Here, as before, we discover abundant indications of a profound acquaintance with our language and literature,—their origin, early history, and gradual progress down to the present time. We observe, also, the same suggestive style of thought which gave so much interest and value to the former work.....Mr. Trench has no crotchets, no extreme or one-sided views. While he awards the Saxon the chief place in our language, both on account of its furnishing about twice as many words as the Latin, and being the framework of the language, he protests against the disposition to undervalue and neglect the use of Latin. Both, he rightly contends, are essential to the completeness, power, and beauty of the language. There are many excellent observations on the various modes in which words originate. One of the most interesting is the following:—

“‘Sometimes a word springs up in a very curious way.

Here is one, not having, I suppose, any great currency except among school-boys, yet being no invention of theirs, but a genuine English word, though of somewhat late birth in the language:—I mean “to chouse.” It has a singular origin. The word is, as I have mentioned already, a Turkish one, and signifies “interpreter.” Such an interpreter or “chiaous” (written “chaus” in Hackluyt, “chiaus” in Massinger), being attached to the Turkish embassy in England, committed in the year 1609 an enormous fraud on the Turkish and Persian merchants resident in London. He succeeded in cheating them of a sum amounting to 4,000*l.*,—a sum very much greater at that day than at the present. From the vast dimensions of the fraud, and the notoriety which attended it, any one who cheated or defrauded was said “to chiaous,” “chause,” or “chouse,”—to do, that is, as this “chiaous” had done.”

Origin of the
phrase
“To chouse.”

The following quotation is given in reference to the rustic use of “his,” in connexion with inanimate objects, instead of “its”:—

“His”
instead of
“its.”

“Attention once called to the matter, one is surprised to discover of how late introduction the word ‘its’ proves to be into the language. Through the whole of our authorized version of the Bible ‘its’ does not once occur; the work which it now performs being accomplished, as our rustics would now accomplish it, by ‘his’ or ‘her’ applied as freely to inanimate things as to persons, or else by ‘thereof’ or ‘of it.’ ‘Its’ occurs, I believe, only three times in all Shakspeare, and I doubt whether Milton has once admitted it into ‘Paradise Lost,’ although, when that was composed, others freely allowed it. How soon all this was forgotten, we have striking evidence in the fact that Dryden, when, in one of his

fault-finding moods with the great men of the preceding generation, he is taking Ben Jonson to task for general inaccuracy in his English diction, among other counts of his indictment, quotes this line from 'Catiline,'

Though heaven should speak with all *his* wrath at once,
and proceeds, '*heaven* is ill syntax with *his*;' while, in fact, up to within forty or fifty years of the time when Dryden began to write, no other syntax was known. Curious also is it to note that in the long controversy which followed on the publication, by Chatterton, of the poems which he ascribed to a monk Rowlie, living in the fifteenth century, no one appealed at the time to such lines as the following,

Life, and all *its* goods I scorn,

as at once decisive of the fact that the poems were not of the age which they pretended."

The phonetic system. "The lecturer is even more decided than before in his condemnation of the phonetic system of writing, recalling concessions which he then made in its favour, and setting up a very strong argument against it."

Charlotte Brontë.

The death of Mrs. Nicholls, "better known as Miss Brontë, and best of all known as 'Currer Bell,'—the literary title under which she fought her battle and won her reputation,"—is recorded on April 7th. "'Ellis' and 'Acton,' her two literary sisters, so fondly commemorated in one of her last productions, were already gone; and by the time these lines reach the reader the grave will have closed over the last of a band of

‘sisters three’ as remarkable as ever grew together in a literary home.”

Charlotte Brontë was born on the 21st of April, 1816, at Thornton, where her father, the Rev. Patrick Brontë, held the living. On the 20th of February, 1820, Mr. Brontë and his family removed to Haworth, and it was at the parsonage there that Charlotte, with the exception of short intervals, passed her life. Her first work, ‘Jane Eyre,’ was published in Her works. October, 1847, ‘Shirley’ in October, 1849, followed by ‘Villette’ and ‘The Professor.’ She was married on the 29th of June, 1854, to the Rev. Mr. Nicholls, her father’s curate, a “consistent Christian and a kind gentleman.” It was while Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls were on a visit to Sir James Kay-Shuttleworth, at Gawthorpe, that she increased a lingering cold from which she was then suffering, and soon after her return home she was confined to her bed. On February 15th, 1855, she wrote to a friend: “My husband and I live at home with my father; of course I could not leave *him*. He is pretty well, better than last summer. No kinder, better husband than mine, it seems to me, there can be in the world.” Mrs. Gaskell thus speaks of her death: “Early on Saturday morning, March 31st, the solemn tolling of Haworth church bell spoke forth the fact of her death to

the villagers who had known her from a child, and whose hearts shivered within them as they thought of the two sitting desolate and alone in the old grey house.”*

It is mentioned on April 7th that “the largest and finest diamond which has as yet been found in Brazil has recently been imported into Paris, and has received the name of the ‘Star of the South.’ In its rough state it weighs 807·02 grains, or 254½ carats. When cut it will be reduced to about 127 carats, and will therefore exceed the Koh-i-noor in size. Independently of its magnitude, it possesses much scientific interest from the regularity of its crystalline forms, and the indications it affords of the mode in which the diamond occurs.”

Sir Henry
De la Beche.

The death of Sir Henry De la Beche occurred on Friday, April 13th, and a long obituary notice is given of him on April 21st. “He was born in London in 1796; but his youth was passed amidst the lovely valleys of Devonshire: his first education having been received at the school of Ottery Saint Mary.....In 1810, Mr. De la Beche entered the Royal Military College, then at Great Marlow, but afterwards removed to Sandhurst; on leaving which he entered the army: but in a little time he resigned the profession of arms for the pursuits of science. For

* ‘The Life of Charlotte Brontë,’ by Mrs. Gaskell.

a man of wealth and fashion to devote himself to any study was in those days a phenomenon ; and the adoption of a science then in its infancy and struggling into life, through the prejudices of the ignorant and the timid, was not a little remarkable. Mr. De la Beche, however, gave himself up to the study of Geology, and made it the business of his life. In 1817 he became a Member of the Geological Society, then in the tenth year of its existence. In 1818 he married the daughter of Capt. Charles White, of Lough Brickland, County Down, Ireland, who died in 1844, leaving one daughter. The year 1819 was spent by Mr. De la Beche in an examination of the geological formations of Switzerland and Italy, and his zealous prosecution of similar inquiries led to his being elected in that year a Fellow of the Royal Society. In 1820 a paper by Mr. De la Beche, 'On the Temperature and Depth of the Lake of Geneva,' the result of a most careful examination, was published in the *Edinburgh Philosophical Journal*." The Rev. Wm. Conybeare, afterwards the Dean of Llandaff, was, to some extent, connected with Mr. De la Beche in his geological investigations of the British rocks. The first communication made by the latter to the Geological Society was "the joint production of these two geologists,—announcing the discovery of

Studies
geology.

Dean
Conybeare.

a new fossil animal of the Saurian family, in the lias limestones of Bristol, which they named, as being distinctive of its species, the Plesiosaurus. From this time the name of De la Beche became closely connected with the science of the day.....

"Mr. De la Beche possessed extensive estates in Jamaica. He now visited his property,—Halse Town, in the neighbourhood of Spanish Town,—and on his return, in 1825, he communicated to the Geological Society his remarks on the geology of that West Indian island, of which nothing had been known previously.....In 1830 his first book, 'Geological Notes,' appeared; and in the same year, 'Sections and Views of Geological Phenomena.' Great skill in the use of the pencil enabled the author to furnish the whole of the drawings for these works, and to them all subsequent illustrators have been indebted. 'The Geological Manual' was published in 1831, and was speedily translated into French and German,—becoming a text-book for geologists throughout Europe, and passing through several editions. In 1832 Mr. De la Beche proposed to the Government to supply the data for colouring geologically the maps, then in progress of publication, of the Ordnance Trigonometrical Survey. This offer was accepted, and at the Land's End, in Cornwall, was commenced the great work of

The Plesio-
saurus.

Geology
of Jamaica.

'The
Geological
Manual.'

this eminent geologist's life. Mr. De la Beche, who bore himself the greater part of the expense of the Geological Survey of Cornwall, devoted several years to a careful investigation of all the conditions, lithological and mineralogical, of Western England; and he published a series of maps of Cornwall, Devonshire, and Somerset, which exhibited a correctness and detail such as had never before been attained. This Survey was fairly established under the Ordnance. 'It was,'—says Sir Henry De la Beche, in his Inaugural Discourse, delivered at the opening of the School of Mines, on the 6th of November, 1851,—'It was while (in 1835) conducting the Geological Survey then in progress, under the Ordnance, in Cornwall, that being forcibly impressed that this Survey presented an opportunity not likely to recur, of illustrating the useful applications of geology, I ventured to suggest to Mr. Spring Rice (now Lord Monteagle), then Chancellor of the Exchequer, that a collection should be formed, and placed under the charge of the Office of Works, containing specimens of the various mineral substances used for roads, in constructing public works or buildings, employed for useful purposes, or from which useful metals were extracted, and that it should be arranged with every reference to instruction; as by the adoption of this course a large amount of in-

Geological
Survey.

Suggests the
formation of
a Museum of
Practical
Geology.

formation, which was scattered, might be condensed, and those interested be enabled to judge how far our known mineral wealth might be rendered available for any undertaking they are required to direct, or may be anxious to promote, for the good or ornament of their country.' Being supported in this recommendation, the nucleus of the Museum of Practical Geology was formed in an apartment in Craig's Court. This collection in a short time filled one house; and even when the Earl Marshal's Office adjoining was added to it, the Museum, by the exertions of its founder, was soon found to outgrow these buildings. A Laboratory was added to the Museum, and placed under the care of the late Richard Phillips. The business of the Geological Survey was greatly extended; and the Palæontological Department was superintended by the late Edward Forbes. The Mining Record Office was also, at the recommendation of the British Association, united to the Museum. In 1839, the sanction of the Treasury was obtained for Lectures on Geology, and its associated sciences, in their application to the useful purposes of life. Owing to the deficiency of room, it was not possible to commence these lectures until 1851; when the building in Jermyn Street received the valuable collections of the Museum and furnished the theatre, in which Sir

Craig's
Court.

Jermyn
Street.

Henry De la Beche delivered the Inaugural Address from which we have quoted."

In 1848 the honour of knighthood was bestowed upon him, and in 1853 he was elected Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of Paris. He received the Order of the Dannebrogg from the King of Denmark, and the Order of Leopold from the King of the Belgians.

De la Beche
knighted.

When suffering from paralysis Sir Henry De la Beche would not allow himself repose, and even two days before his death he spent several hours in the Museum of Geology, directing the business of the establishment, although then powerless to move himself. "He has left in the Geological Survey and the Museum of Practical Geology enduring monuments."

His death.

In the same week another great loss to science is recorded in the death of Mr. Greenough. He was born in 1778, and "served in Parliament for the famous, or infamous, borough of Gatton." "His genius was a genius for map-making..... and the records of his zeal which remain to tell posterity of his useful labours are 'The Geological Map of England and Wales,' the map of 'Hindústan,' and the 'General Sketches of the Physical Features of British India.' He was on a journey to the East, in hopes of collecting materials for new maps, when he died at Naples.

G. B.
Greenough,
first
President of
the Geological
Society.

.....Mr. Greenough had a great reputation among men of science, without being very widely known to the British public. He was a worker, not a writer. More than thirty years ago he published his one volume, 'A Critical Examination of the First Principles of Geology.'

.....He was one of the founders and was the first President of the London Geological Society."

These notices are followed by a "graceful tribute to the memory of the two great geologists who have passed away," written by Dean Conybeare and Sir Roderick Murchison.

Sir R. I.
Murchison.

Mr.
Greenough's
bequests.

It is announced on the 12th of May that "Sir R. I. Murchison has received the appointment of Director of the Geological Survey"; and the next paragraph states that the late Mr. Greenough has "left his most valuable collections of books, maps, charts, sections, and engravings to the Geological and Royal Geographical Societies, to be apportioned by his executors in accordance with their relation to the pursuits of these Societies,—and he has left 500*l.*, free of legacy duty, to each for the promotion of those objects which his whole life had been spent in advancing. With the same view, he had during the last few years of his life presented to the College at Cork his cabinet of rocks and simple minerals,—and to the Museum at University College his valuable

collection of fossils, to be arranged there under the direction of Prof. Morris."

It is also noted from the Indian papers that "the base line of verification for the grand trigonometrical survey of the Peninsula, commenced in September, 1852, has been completed. The survey was recommended by the Marquis of Wellesley and the Duke of Wellington. It began in 1800, under the auspices of Col. Lambton, who was spared to preside over it for above twenty years."

Trigonometrical survey of India.

Some of the prices realized at the "six days' sale of the Baker Collection are given on June 2nd. "The chief lot was a first edition of Shakspeare, described as the only copy known with the two leaves which were cancelled in 'As You Like It.' This lot produced 163*l.* 16*s.*, at which price it was secured—like so many other of our best things—for America."

First edition of Shakspeare.

The construction of standard measures of length on the plan of Mr. Whitworth, of Manchester, had been the subject of an inquiry before a Select Committee of the House of Lords, the principle being that the standard is obtained by measuring the distance between the perfectly flat ends of a solid bar having true surfaces. The *Athenæum* of June 16th states: "The present standard yard made by the Royal Commissioners, is so contrived that the dimen-

Standard measures of length: Mr. Whitworth's invention.

sions are determined by measuring with the aid of microscopes the distance between two points, each about an inch from the ends of the bar, which is made of gun-metal. This is an extremely delicate operation ; whereas, by Mr. Whitworth's machine, which measures to the millionth of an inch, standard measures can be constructed with very great accuracy, the test being that of touch, by which errors can be detected to the millionth of an inch. Mr. Whitworth explained his measuring machine to the Committee, and so satisfactory has his evidence been, that we believe the Committee have come to the decision of recommending 'that his standard yard measure, constructed of the same length as that of the Royal Commission, be legalized as the secondary standard for comparison with local standards of measure throughout the country, and that his standard foot and inch have the same sanction attached to them.'"

Johnston's
skeleton
charts.

Mr. A. K. Johnston's 'Atlas of Skeleton Charts, for the Direction and Force of Winds and Currents, and other Phenomena, in the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, and Bay of Bengal: with a Preliminary Notice by Dr. Buist,' receives favourable notice on the 23rd of June: "This is a useful publication, and if the compiler's objects be carried out great advantages will accrue to navigation in the Indian

seas. Captains of ships are invited to enter their marine meteorological observations in copies of skeleton maps, which will be furnished to them, by which means it is expected that very valuable and perfect charts may be eventually prepared, showing the meteorological phenomena prevalent at various seasons of the year in the Indian seas. The interests involved are very great. According to an estimate made some years ago, it appears that the value of the goods imported into, and exported from, Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay alone amounts annually to upwards of 2,250,000*l.* It has been shown that Lieut. Maury's charts and sailing directions have shortened the voyages of American ships by about a third. Thus, if the voyage to and from India were shortened by no more than a tenth it would secure a saving in freightage alone of 250,000*l.* annually." The figures for 1884-85 return the total value of the private sea-borne foreign export and import Indian trade at over 152,000,000*l.**

The death of "a self-taught and useful servant of letters," Mr. Fulcher, is noted on the 7th of Mr. Fulcher, July: "He was known beyond the little town of Sudbury, in which his life was passed, as the author of some popular poems, and for twenty-

* 'The Imperial Gazetteer of India,' vol. vi. p. 564, by W. W. Hunter.

six years as the editor of a Pocket-book of creditable standing among literary almanacs. He commenced life as a country tailor some forty years ago, when the means of mental cultivation were less accessible to the humbler classes than they are at present; yet, with no patronage and little encouragement, Mr. Fulcher worked his way up, not only to literary accomplishments, but to pecuniary respectability and station in his native town, over which he presided as mayor for many years. In addition to his poetical works, we understand that Mr. Fulcher has left a life of his townsman, Gainsborough, all but finished."

Dr. George
Johnston,
founder of
the Ray
Society.

Dr. George Johnston, the founder of the Ray Society, died on the 30th of July, in his fifty-eighth year, and an account of his works in various branches of natural history is given on the 4th of August. "He took his degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1819, and settled as a general practitioner of medicine at Berwick-on-Tweed. Here his taste for natural history became developed, and by his researches and publications he has rendered the town—next to Selborne—one of the most classical localities in Great Britain.....The work for which he is perhaps best known is his 'History of British Zoophytes,' which is the most complete and accurate account of the British forms of these

'History
of British
Zoophytes.'

animals we yet possess. The original work was published in Edinburgh in 1838, and a second edition appeared in London in 1847. The work is beautifully illustrated by Mrs. Johnston. Whilst working at the Zoophytes, the Sponges and Corallines did not escape his notice; and in 1842 he published 'A History of British Sponges and Lithophytes.' This work, like the last, is still the best and most complete in our language on the subjects to which it relates.....

He brought out in 1850 his 'Introduction to Conchology; or, Elements of the Natural History of Molluscous Animals.' This is a repertory of interesting facts, pertaining to the structure and habits of the shell-fishes of Great Britain, and a necessary work in the library of every working naturalist. During the preparation of the foregoing volumes he was working at a very neglected branch of British zoology—the Annelida, the true worms of the naturalist. His papers on 'British Annelides' and 'Irish Annelides,' in the 'Annals of Natural History,' are well known to naturalists; and it will add to the regret that all who knew him must feel at his loss to know that he was labouring at a complete work on British Annelids when his sudden seizure deprived him of life. His last work, 'Botany of the Eastern Borders,' shows that no natural occurrence escaped his scrutinizing observation.

'History of
British
Sponges and
Lithophytes.'

The
Annelida.

He was a botanist as well as a zoologist ; and it was his critical eye that first detected in the waters of the Blackadder the new water-weed *Anicharis Alsinestrius*. His labours were the result of leisure moments. From 1819 to 1853 he was actively engaged in a harassing country medical practice. That he never shrank from its claims is well known ; but whilst doing all this work, his friends, and those who visited him from a distance, were surprised to find him one of the most social of men."

Literary pensions. The Civil List of Lord Aberdeen had given great dissatisfaction in the world of literature, only the small sum of 150*l.* being allotted to literary pensions. The *Athenæum* had described it as the "astounding document," and on August 4th, in quoting the positive declaration of Sir Robert Peel, "I have resolved to apply the miserable pittance at the disposal of the Crown, on the Civil List Pension Fund, altogether to the reward and encouragement of literary exertions," gives the lists of literary pensions bestowed during the previous ten years : "1845, 700*l.*; 1846, 1,000*l.*; 1847, 700*l.*; 1848, 700*l.*; 1849, 490*l.*; 1850, 850*l.*; 1851, 1,025*l.*; 1852, 1,100*l.*; 1853, 1,000*l.*; and finally, 1854, 150*l.* Thus, for the nine years previous to 1854 the amount given as rewards for 'literary exertions' was 7,565*l.*, or something over 840*l.* a

year. Last year, in Lord Aberdeen's hands, the sum dwindled down to 150%."

The following appeared on July 21st: "We are informed that the Arctic Committee, appointed by the House of Commons to investigate the claims of the commanders of the recent Arctic Expedition for a reward for the discovery of a North-West Passage, has come to a determination to recommend that 5,000% should be given to Capt. M'Clure." And on the 4th of August it is stated: "Besides the sum of 5,000% given to Capt. M'Clure for his Arctic services, a further sum of 5,000% has been voted to his officers and crew, and 800% for the erection of a monument to the memory of Sir John Franklin and his companions, which will, we believe, be placed, very appropriately, in Greenwich Hospital.—Mr. Westmacott has received a commission for this memorial."

Reward to
Capt.
M'Clure.

It is mentioned on the 18th of August that "Mr. Heywood, the Member for Lancashire, has given notice in the House of Commons that, next session, he shall move 'An address to Her Majesty praying that Her Majesty will be graciously pleased to appoint a Commission to inquire into the state of the Authorized version of the Bible, and to prepare a plan for the further revision of that translation.'"

Revised
version of
the Bible.

The death of Mr. Colburn the publisher is Mr. Colburn.

reported on the 25th of August. "Besides having been an active and prosperous publisher, under whose auspices many good and useful works have been given to the world, including the 'Diaries' of Pepys and Evelyn, the early works of Sir E. B. Lytton,—Mr. Colburn was at one time largely interested in periodical literature. The *New Monthly Magazine*, which now bears his name, was founded by him with Campbell as editor; he was also, at one time or other, proprietor—or part proprietor—of the *London Weekly Review*, afterwards the *Court Journal*, the *Literary Gazette*, and the *Sunday Times*."

The *New Monthly*.

Dr. Gilly. The Rev. Dr. W. Stephen Gilly died on the 10th of September, and the *Athenæum* on the 22nd says: "He merits a niche in our columns as the author of 'Researches among the Vaudois.'" This work gave rise to a public subscription on their behalf, which realized more than 6,500*l*.

'Researches among the Vaudois.'

Government grant for scientific purposes.

It is announced on the 17th of November that the Government has ordered the sum of 1,000*l*. to be placed at the disposal of the Royal Society this year for scientific purposes, and has informed the Council of the Society that a similar sum will be annually included in the miscellaneous estimates for the advancement of science.

“The Patriarch of English poets, wits, and patrons of Art,” Samuel Rogers, died on the 18th of December, and a long obituary notice of him is given on the 22nd. He was born on the 30th of July, 1763. In 1792 appeared ‘The Pleasures of Memory.’ In 1795 his epilogue written for Mrs. Siddons was spoken by her at her benefit. ‘Columbus,’ ‘Jacqueline,’ ‘Human Life,’ and lastly ‘Italy’ followed. “The illustration of the last-named poem was the last task for the public undertaken by the author :—a task, it may be added, beyond the compass of any one less easy in fortunes, since the production of that volume is said to have cost 10,000*l.*, and the days had not then set in when cheap literature on the one hand had been balanced by a luxury in typography and engraving undreamed of by our fathers. There can be no question that the taste, no less than the cost, brought to bear on this volume, in which some of the most exquisite designs of Turner alternate with those of Stothard, mark a period in the history of English book illustration. To this day Rogers’s ‘Italy’ remains without a peer.....In regard to the place of Mr. Rogers among modern English poets. His poetry is select rather than brilliant. He produced very sparingly,—he polished every line with a fastidiousness fatal to vigour,—and seemed so little

Samuel
Rogers.

‘Italy.’

equal to the labour and fatigue attending on a sustained flight, that two of his poems on most ambitious subjects, 'The Voyage of Columbus' and 'Italy,' were given forth to the world in the form of fragments. His 'Pleasures of Memory' stands midway betwixt Goldsmith and Campbell, though not on the level of either. Measured against that beautiful poem of the affections, Cowper's 'Lines on his Mother's Picture,' the reminiscences of Mr. Rogers are faint. The heart in them beats languidly, though the music is 'tender and gravely sweet.' The symmetry of the versification, nevertheless, has installed several passages among our stock quotations. There are lines and cadences in 'Jacqueline,' slight as is the structure of the story, that take possession of the heart through the ear,—and which, by all who are not exclusively given over to the modern style of mystical meaning and rugged versification, will not willingly be let go.In the 'Italy' of Rogers we have not the Italy of those passions, 'sudden and lasting,' which Byron sang—nor the Italy of violent words and painfully inconclusive deeds, which has been so sad a sight to more modern pilgrims,—but the Italy of 'ruins and the vine.' The gentler appearances of its 'fatal beauty' have rarely been more gracefully sung than by Rogers ; and though his pictures may be under-

valued as too smooth and feeble on a first reading, there are not a few who after passing the Alps have been surprised, like ourselves, to find how their truth of traits and tones, the quiet musical harmony of some single line, or the sentiment of the entire fragment, calls them up again — as familiar melodies recalled by the sights of the way."

CHAPTER XIII.

THE ATHENÆUM, 1856.

The war with
Russia.

THE New Year opened with promises of a speedy restoration of peace. The Czar had visited his army in the Crimea on the 10th of November, and there can be no doubt that the information he then obtained as to the strength of the allied forces induced him to look favourably upon the proposals of peace made by Austria in December. On the 2nd of January the centre dock at Sebastopol was blown up by the English; on the 11th a council of war was held at Paris; and on the 1st of February, the day on which the Sebastopol Docks were destroyed, the Austrian proposals were accepted and signed by England and France as a basis of negotiation for peace.

Books on the
war.

The books on the war included 'A Narrative of the Siege of Kars,' by Dr. Sandwith, who "confronts danger with the easy dash of a young soldier,—is awake at all hours of the night,—is ready with his suggestion, his hopeful word, his practical hand"; 'Sevastopol: our Tent in

the Crimea ; and Wanderings in Sevastopol,' by Two Brothers, dealing chiefly with the closing portion of the great struggle ; ' Memorials of Capt. Hedley Vicars,' "one who filled up the old chivalric definition of being 'tender' as well as 'brave'"; 'Life in the Trenches before Sebastopol,' by Major Porter; and 'Kars and our Captivity in Russia: with Letters from Sir W. F. Williams, Bart., of Kars,' by Col. Lake, giving a full account of the siege and ultimate surrender to General Mouravieff, "the Muscovite Sidney," on the 28th of November, 1855.

'The Trans-Caucasian Campaign of the Omar Pasha, Turkish Army under Omer Pasha: a Personal Narrative,' by Laurence Oliphant, is reviewed on April 12th. "The war has made one name illustrious—the name of Omer Pasha. It has given to other men the celebrity that belongs to valour, to martial tenacity, to skill in the dispositions of defence ; but only the Bosniak captain has it signalized as a great commander. There seems no ground for doubting that Omer Pasha, free to act, faithfully seconded by the Allies, and enabled to dispose at the right time of the military resources of the Ottoman Empire, would have converted Georgia into the theatre of a magnificent campaign, which might have given a decisive turn to the struggle. As it is, he stands before the world as the foremost

man of the war; he alone of the commanders displayed a genius for strategy.....Mr. Oliphant's narrative contains a familiar, unaffected, but striking portraiture of this remarkable man. The War has not elicited a better or more interesting book."

Soldiers and
nurses.

'Eastern Hospitals and English Nurses,' by a Lady Volunteer, noticed on April 19th, thus refers to the affection and gratitude of the soldiers:—

"No words can tell it rightly, for it was unbounded, and as long as we stayed among them it never changed. Familiar as our presence became to them, though we were in and out of the wards day and night, they never forgot the respect due to our sex and position. Standing by those in bitter agony, when the force of old habits is great, or by those in the glow of returning health, or walking up the wards among orderlies and sergeants, never did a word which could offend a woman's ear fall upon ours. Even in the barrack-yard, passing by the guard-room or entrances, where stood groups of soldiers smoking and idling, the moment we approached all coarseness was hushed; and this lasted, not a week or a month, but the whole of my twelvemonth's residence, and my experience is also that of all my companions."

'The War,'
by W. H.
Russell.

The second portion of Mr. W. H. Russell's 'The War' is reviewed on the 4th of October, commencing, "appropriately enough, with a reference to General Simpson's assertion that he was, physically and mentally, incapable of exercising the office of Commander-in-chief.....

The command of the English army was conferred on 'a veteran who had seen a year's service in the Peninsula in 1812-13, and in the campaign of 1815, and who, thirty years afterwards, held the post of Quartermaster-General to Sir C. Napier, in his Indian war of 1845.'..... Mr. Russell is the first who ever made a distant public almost spectators of a contest in progress. We were amidst it all, by day and by night, in reverse and in success; no corner of the camp, no nook in the hospitals, was hidden from us."

'Craigcrook Castle,' by Gerald Massey, is noticed on the 25th of October, and the following is given from the poems called 'Glimpses of the War':—

'Glimpses
of the War,'
by Gerald
Massey.

"Our old War-banners on the wind
Were dancing merrily o'er them;
Our half world husht with hope behind—
The sullen Foe before them!
They trode their march of battle, bold
As death-devoted freemen;
Like those Three Hundred Greeks of old,
Or Rome's immortal Three Men.
Ah, Victory! joyful Victory!
Like Love, thou bringest sorrow;
But, O! for such an hour with thee,
Who could not die to-morrow?

With towering heart and lightsome feet
They went to their high places;
The fiery valour at white heat
Was flashing in their faces!

Magnificent in battle-robe,
 And radiant, as from star-lands,
 That spirit shone which girds our globe
 With glory, as with garlands !
 Ah, Victory ! joyful Victory !
 Like Love, thou bringest sorrow ;
 But, O ! for such an hour with thee,
 Who could not die to-morrow ?

* * * *

Brave hearts, with noble feeling flusht,
 In ripe and ruddy riot
 But Yesterday ! how are ye husht
 Beneath the smile of Quiet !
 For us they pour'd their blood like wine,
 From life's ripe-gather'd clusters ;
 And far thro' History's night shall shine
 Their deeds with starry lustres.
 Ah, Victory ! joyful Victory !
 Like Love, thou bringest sorrow ;
 But, O ! for such an hour with thee,
 Who could not die to-morrow ?

We laid them not in Churchyard home,
 Beneath our darling daisies :
 But to their rude mounds Love will come,
 And sit, and sing their praises.
 And soothly sweet shall be their rest
 Where Victory's hands have crown'd them ;
 To Earth our Mother's bosom prest,
 And Heaven's arms around them.
 Ah, Victory ! joyful Victory !
 Like Love, thou bringest sorrow ;
 But, O ! for such an hour with thee,
 Who could not die to-morrow ?”

On Sunday, the 30th of March, while the streets were crowded with people returning from evening service, the guns at the Park and the Tower announced to London the close of the war with Russia, the treaty of peace having been signed at Paris that afternoon. Russia, Treaty of peace signed at Paris, however, was not long at rest, for on the 3rd of May the *Athenæum* announces: "A scientific commission has been appointed by the Russian Minister of Naval Affairs for the purpose of laying down a correct map of the Caspian Sea, —which, since the close of the war, and the neutralization of the Black Sea, has assumed a new importance. The expedition, composed of officers of the pilot corps, will commence its operations in the course of the present month."

The great storm in the Black Sea on November 13th–16th, 1854, known as "the Balaklava tempest," which caused the loss of the Prince and other vessels sent with stores for the allied armies in the Crimea, was the subject of a paper read by Mr. T. Dobson before the British Association in August, 1856. A report, illustrated by diagrams, is given on the 23rd. "In the month of November, 1854, the passage of a storm over the British islands caused a considerable depression of the barometric column, beginning on the 11th of November and ending on the 19th, as shown by the barometric curves

The
Balaklava
tempest.

Explosions in
coal-mines
during storms.

which accompany this paper. During four consecutive days of this period of diminished atmospheric pressure, there occurred in the coal mines of Britain, five fatal explosions, at the following places :—on Nov. 13, at Old Park Colliery, Dudley, Worcestershire ; Nov. 14, Cramlington Colliery, Northumberland ; Nov. 15, Bennet's Colliery, Bolton, Lancashire, and Birchey Coppice Colliery, Dudley ; Nov. 16, Rosehall Colliery, Coatbridge, N.B. These facts alone render this storm worthy of especial attention, independently of the notoriety which it has acquired from its disastrous effects on the allied fleets and armies in the Crimea. The meteorological circumstances which characterized the Balaklava tempest have been determined with unusual care and skill, from a very great number of observations at stations spread over the whole surface of Europe, by M. Liais, of the Imperial Observatory at Paris. In all probability, many years will elapse before a great storm on land is subjected to an examination so rigorous and complete as that undertaken by M. Liais in the present instance. This storm may, therefore, be adopted as the most satisfactory test that we are likely to have for some time to come of the correctness of the principles of interpretation which I have already applied to barometric fluctuations in my report on the relation between

explosions in coal mines and revolving storms,—principles which flow directly from the nature of cyclones.”

The general literature published during 1856 included ‘Aurora Leigh,’ by Elizabeth Barrett Browning; ‘Memoirs of the Court of England during the Regency,’ by the Duke of Buckingham; the twelfth and concluding volume of Grote’s ‘History of Greece’; the ‘Letters of Queen Henrietta Maria, including her Private Correspondence with Charles the First: collected from the Public Archives and Private Libraries of France and England,’ edited by Mary Anne Everett Green, “the Patient Grissell of literature”; the completion of Dean Milman’s ‘History of Latin Christianity’; ‘Recollections of the Table-Talk of Samuel Rogers: to which is added Porsoniana’; “Memoirs by the Right Honourable Sir Robert Peel, Bart., M.P. Published by the Trustees of his Papers, Lord Mahon (now Earl Stanhope) and the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P.—Part I. The Roman Catholic Question, 1828–29”; the third volume of ‘Modern Painters,’ by John Ruskin; the seventh and eighth volumes (completing the work) of the memoirs of Thomas Moore, by Lord John Russell; and the third edition of ‘Sakoontala,’ translated by M. Williams and produced by Mr. Austin of Hertford. The latter received gold

General
literature.

medals from the Queen and the Empress Eugénie.

The “crown jewel among the precious legal oddities” collected by Lord Cockburn in ‘Memorials of his Time,’ was Lord Eskgrove, “whose name is less known than Braxfield’s on this side of the Border. Yet for many a long year the ludicrous sayings and doings of this person seem to have furnished the tables in ‘Auld Reekie’ with much of their mirth. Any man having a new absurdity of his to recount could get on in society,—and curious it is to read that Walter Scott, during many years of his younger manhood, was rated as a capital companion mainly because he was particularly successful in his imitation of ‘Esky.’”

Lord
Eskgrove.

The following are two of the anecdotes told by Lord Cockburn concerning Lord Eskgrove:—

“I heard him, in condemning a tailor to death for murdering a soldier by stabbing him, aggravate the offence thus, ‘and not only did you murder him, whereby he was bereaved of his life, but you did thrust, or push, or pierce, or project, or propell, the le-thall weapon through the belly-band of his regimen-tal breeches, which were his Majesty’s!’ In the trial of Glengarry for murder in a duel, a lady of great beauty was called as a witness. She came into court veiled. But before administering the oath Eskgrove gave her this exposition of her duty—‘Youngg woman! you will now consider yourself as in the presence of Almighty God, and of this High Court.

Lift up your veil ; throw off all modesty, and look me in the face.”

During the first few months of the year “almost a library” of pamphlets was issued on currency and investment—indeed, it would seem that the money-making class had lost their way. Bank reform and money panics were among the subjects treated, and an interesting tract was published by Mr. W. H. Smith, entitled ‘How to Detect Forged Bank Notes,’ with specimens of the paper and illustrations of the water-mark. Currency and investment.

On the 12th of January Mr. Bohn’s edition of Addison’s works, with notes by Bishop Hurd, is reviewed, its speciality being the production of more than a hundred letters never before printed. Addison’s works. “The earliest of these hitherto unpublished epistles is addressed to Swift, in February, 1707. The latest is Addison’s ‘French Circular on the Royal Quarrel,’ which he drew up in December, 1717, in his official capacity as Secretary of State, for the enlightenment of foreign courts on the subject of the bitter family feud which raged between George the First and his son, the heir-apparent.....Mr. Bohn has a right to be proud of the good fortune which brought such treasures into his hand.”

The Civil Service Commission had now been some months in operation, and, the *Athenæum* of

The Civil
Service
Commission.

January 26th reports, "with some unexpected results. The Service has suddenly lost many of its charms. Timid youth is alarmed, and presumption is rebuked by the stern Board of Examiners. The nation promises to be left without Civil servants. It is obvious that, for a beginning, the standard of attainment was too high. It would have been wiser to commence with a lower test of efficiency, and year by year to have raised the scale, as our public schools and the public in general became more alive to the necessity of grounding youth in the subjects necessary to qualify for Her Majesty's Civil Service. A kind of panic, we are assured, has seized our youth. Many young fellows, brought up with a view to public employment, find, all of a sudden, they must undergo an examination, of which they had no warning, and for which they have made no preparation. They have been 'sent empty away.' Heads of schools and parents must awake to the necessity of instilling a certain amount of knowledge in common, and in some uncommon, things in the minds of youth; and the young fellows themselves must feel the importance of giving their best diligence to their studies. The day is past when young gentlemen, with a fine taste for dogs and a distant acquaintance with Cocker, could force their way into a public office,—by

means of a note from the Patronage Clerk. The admission of young men into the service, whose previous education has trained them in habits of application, and who are thus enabled to concentrate their ideas on the subject before them, has, it is said, already been productive of benefit. But, as we have hinted, the advantage might have been attained more surely, if more gradually. Many of those who have been rejected by the Commissioners were youths who, with proper training, would have made useful and efficient public servants. A few months, in most cases, would have sufficed for the 'cram.' The public may be indebted to the Civil Service Commission for what has been done. But we will venture to suggest that possibly, if a little less rigour were shown at first in the examinations—allowing something to natural talent as well as to acquired abilities—good would result. The Civil Service will assume in time the proportions of an organized and well-regulated profession,—prove an attraction to some of the best educated men of the day,—and become a means of raising the standard of education throughout the country. We look confidently to the heads of public schools for their cordial co-operation."

Patronage
abolished.

The death of Joseph Haydn, compiler of the 'Dictionary of Dates,' is noted on the same date.

Joseph
Haydn.

Public
Records :
removal to
Fetter Lane.

Courts or
Departments
to which they
belong.

On February 9th it is announced that the Public Records* were about to be removed to the new building in Fetter Lane. The principal groups of documents which, broadly speaking, may be considered to represent what are now termed "The Public Records" belong to the following Courts or Departments: Chancery, Queen's Bench (Crown and Plea Sides), Common Pleas, Exchequer (Plea Side), Treasury, Home Office, Foreign Office, Colonial Office, War Office, India Office, Admiralty, Board of Trade, Exchequer and Audit Department, Lord Chamberlain, Paymaster General, Office of

Report of
Sir Francis
Palgrave.

* With reference to these public records thus brought together—from the Tower of London, the Chapter House at Westminster, Carlton Ride, and other places—in one vast repository, a passage from Sir Francis Palgrave's Report to Her Majesty, written about this time, is worth quoting. Speaking of the "value and importance of the Public Records," he says: "Whether we consider them in relation to antiquity, to continuity, to variety, to extent, or to amplitude of facts and details, they have no equals in the civilized world. For the archives of France, the most perfect and complete in continental Europe, do not ascend higher than the reign of St. Louis, and, compared with ours, are stunted and jejune; whereas in England, taking up our title (so to speak) from Domesday, the documents which, under the joint operation of ancient usage, the Record Act, the Treasury Minute of 8th August, 1848, directing the incorporation of the State Paper Office with the Public Record Office, and the Order in Council

Works, Mint, Office of Woods, Land Revenue Record Office, First-Fruits and Tenths and Bounty Office, Duchy of Lancaster, Palatinate of Lancaster, and Registrar of Acknowledgments of Married Women; and among the records of abolished offices or treasuries are those of the Alienation Office, Augmentation Office, Chapter House, Auditor's Office, Pall Office, Comptroller General, the Courts of Requests, Wards and Liveries and Star Chamber, Marshalsea and Palace Courts, Peveril Court, Records of the Principality of Wales and Palatinate of Chester, Palatinate of Durham,

of the 5th of March, 1852, are or will be placed under the care of the Master of the Rolls, contain the whole of the materials for the history of this country, in every branch and under every aspect, civil, religious, political, social, moral, or material, from the Norman Conquest to the present day. Chasms there are, but the only one of importance is that intervening between Domesday and the Great Rolls of the Exchequer, viz., from 1088 to 1130; and inasmuch as in the reign of Henry II. we have authentic testimony that no documents of the reign of the Conqueror, with the exception of Domesday, existed, it is most probable that none were ever framed. But with respect to subsequent periods, though occasionally particular classes of documents may fail us, yet the place of the documents lost or non-existent is generally supplied by others affording information nearly equivalent."—*Twentieth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records*, p. xxii.

Privy Signet Office, State Paper Office, and the Queen's Bench, Fleet, and Marshalsea Prisons. Descriptive accounts of the classes of documents belonging to each of the above Courts or Departments will be found in Thomas's 'Handbook to the Public Records.' Access to the public records is obtainable with very slight restriction. The applicant has, on entering the building, to enter his or her name and address in the attendance book, and after this slight formality the searcher is at liberty to enter either the library or legal search rooms, and can at once inspect any index or apply for any record required to be inspected. Extracts can be taken from any document or full copies made.

Calendaring
the State
Papers.

It is stated on the 15th of March that three excellent antiquaries have been set to work on the State Papers "to sort, arrange, and calendar their contents. Mr. Lemon, Keeper of the State Papers, takes the reign of Edward the Sixth (already advanced some stages) and the next three reigns. Mrs. Everett Green—author of 'Lives of the Princesses of England'—is labouring at the time of James the First. Mr. John Bruce, one of the most sagacious and careful of English historical scholars, has undertaken the reign of Charles the First and the period of the Commonwealth. The work could not be in better hands. In a few years we may hope to

see these invaluable State Papers as available to historical students as are the Manuscripts in the British Museum.”*

The death of Sir John Stoddart on the 16th of February, in his eighty-fifth year, calls for a few lines of comment on the 23rd. “Sir John (then Dr.) Stoddart was well known in London literary circles thirty years ago. He was connected with the *Times*; and after his secession from that journal started the *New Times*. Since his retirement from journalism into the comparative privacy of official life at Malta, where he became Judge of the Admiralty Court, the deceased has rarely taken the pen in hand. A treatise on Universal Grammar, first contributed to an Encyclopædia, has however appeared as a substantive work.”

Sir John
Stoddart.

“A very interesting State Paper” is referred to on April 26th, being the Third Report from the Commissioners of the Great Exhibition. The surplus was not less than 186,436*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* “The Commissioners have received from Parlia-

The Great
Exhibition
surplus.

* Of these Calendars of State Papers 129 volumes have been issued up to the present time (1886), made up as follows:—Domestic, 48 vols.; Foreign and Domestic (Henry VIII.), 14 vols.; Foreign, 12 vols.; Scottish, 2 vols.; Irish, 13 vols.; Colonial, 6 vols.; Carew Papers, 6 vols.; Spanish, 9 vols.; Venetian, 8 vols.; Treasury Papers, 5 vols.; Home Office, 3 vols.; Syllabus of Rymer’s *Fœdera*, 3 vols.

ment 157,500*l.*; from rents and miscellanies 5,401*l.*, making their total income 349,338*l.* Out of this immense sum they have already paid for land, leases and roads, 247,595*l.* The balance, moreover, is also required to complete the purchase of estates at Kensington. The Report discusses at great length the question—what is to be done with the new estate? and points to the public institutions and Societies which require new and enlarged room for the due prosecution of their inquiries.”

On the same date the sale of a first edition of Shakspeare from Mr. Lane's collection is recorded. The volume was knocked down for 164*l.* 17*s.*, and a complete set of Prynne's Records for 200*l.* 11*s.*

London
divided into
postal dis-
tricts.

London was now too large to be treated conveniently in matters of postage as a single town, having a single central office, through which all letters must pass, and the *Athenæum* states on May 3rd that it is proposed “to divide the metropolis into ten districts, which shall be to all intents and purposes ten towns, each with its own centre of postal business. When this arrangement, which is likely to be carried out this year, shall have come fully into play, letters to or from any London district will pass immediately to or from its central office, and there will no longer be the delay, sometimes of hours,

arising from the often circuitous route taken by St. Martin's-le-Grand, and from the detention there for a first sorting. The ten London districts will be named from their position, East and West Central, briefly E. C. and W. C., with round about them N., S. E. and W., N. W., &c., each of the surrounding districts reaching to the limit of the twelve-mile circle."

Sir William Hamilton died at Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 6th of May, of congestion of the brain, and on the 10th full tribute is paid to the distinguished metaphysician. It is pleasing to record that the article was written by his former antagonist Prof. De Morgan. "He was a descendant of one of the sternest of the heroes of Bothwell Bridge, and a Scottish herald would designate him as Sir William Hamilton, Baronet, of Preston. But to the educated world he will be known by thousands who care nothing for his ancestry, as the most learned man of his time, and one of the most acute in the profound branch of inquiry which it was his delight to follow. In this particular, indeed, it would be very difficult to imagine any method by which it could be proved that he ever had a superior in his own sort of erudition, in any age or in any country. In modern times, deep knowledge of the previous history of their pursuit has not been the characteristic of metaphysicians; cer-

Sir William
Hamilton.

Extent of his
knowledge.

tainly not of the Scotch school. And if there be any one of olden time who could compare with Sir W. Hamilton, it must be remembered that the learning of the departed Professor embraced all that was known to his ancient competitor, and all that has been written since. Its mass and its minuteness is beyond description; and it extended from before Aristotle down to the last German who has attempted to fathom the distinction between *ego* and *non-ego*. Men of such all-absorbing capacity generally become mere indexes: but Sir W. Hamilton preserved his individuality, and was able to exhibit in his writings the freshness of an inquirer whose mind has never been satiated by borrowed learning. His publications were for a long time confined to articles in the *Edinburgh Review*,—but they were articles which stood out by themselves, and were cited as separate works. His edition of Reid, the additions made to the separate publications of the articles just mentioned, and the addition to Stewart, which he has not lived to finish, are of his later life and confirmed reputation:—the steps of his ladder are all in the *Edinburgh Review*. It is said that he has left his lectures complete, and a great mass of other writing. It will be a disgrace to Edinburgh if there be any failure with respect to these remains.The combative element was too strong in

his disposition to allow him to be generally popular; but his private worth made him respected, and in his own circle he was beloved. To the University in which he taught, the loss of so world-wide a reputation will be very great:—he was in himself enough to give such an institution a place in the republic of letters.”

It is announced on June 28th that the Lords of the Admiralty, after due consideration, have awarded to Dr. Rae and his companions the 10,000*l.* offered for the first discovery of traces of Franklin. On the same day it is stated that a memorial, signed by influential authorities, has been addressed to Lord Palmerston, “praying for a *final* and *limited* search after the relics of the Erebus and Terror,” and urging, among other reasons, that “although most persons have arrived at the conclusion that there can now be no survivors of Franklin’s Expedition, yet there are eminent men in our own country and in America who hold a contrary opinion. Dr. Kane, of the United States, for example, who has distinguished himself by pushing farther to the north in search of Franklin than any other individual, and to whom the Royal Geographical Society has recently awarded its Founders’ Gold Medal, thus speaks (in a letter to the benevolent Mr. Grinnell):—‘I am really in doubt as to the preservation of human life.

Admiralty
award to
Dr. Rae.

Memorial to
Lord
Palmerston.

I well know how glad I would have been, had my duty to others permitted me, to have taken refuge among the Esquimaux of Smith Strait and Etah Bay. Strange as it may seem to you, we regarded the coarse life of these people with eyes of envy, and did not doubt that we could have lived with comfort upon their resources. It required all my powers, moral and physical, to prevent my men from deserting to the Walrus Settlements, and it was my final intention to have taken to Esquimaux life had Providence not carried us through in our hazardous escape.’”

Sir John Bowring, who was made governor of Hong Kong in 1854, was preparing an account of the colony, and the *Athenæum* on July 5th, in making the announcement, shows the rapid increase of Hong Kong: “Before 1841, when the island was ceded to the British, the population consisted principally of fishermen (having a piratical reputation), scattered along the southern side. The Chinese inhabitants now amount to 72,000. The colony which for many years annually drew from 20,000*l.* to 40,000*l.* from Parliamentary grants in aid, is now self-supporting, and has a handsome surplus revenue. In the year 1855 no less than 600,000 tons of shipping entered the harbour.”*

* The amount of shipping, British, foreign, and Chinese, which entered the port in 1882 exceeded 5,000,000 tons.

The death of Dr. Buckland at Clapham, on the 14th of August, is recorded on the 23rd. He was born at Axminster, in Devon, on the 12th of March, 1784. "Dr. Buckland's name will be ever associated in this country with his discoveries of the remains of animals in the caves of Kirkdale, and other parts of England. Of these discoveries he first gave an account in the *Philosophical Transactions* in a paper, entitled 'Account of an Assemblage of Fossil Teeth and Bones of Elephant, Rhinoceros, Hippopotamus, Bear, Tiger, and Hyæna, and Sixteen other Animals, discovered in a Cave at Kirkdale, Yorkshire, in the year 1821.' These discoveries and others served as a basis for a work published in 1823, entitled 'Reliquiæ Diluvianæ; or, Observations on the Organic Remains attesting the Action of an Universal Deluge.' Although the occurrence of these remains is now accounted for on a different theory, the great value of this work remains as a record of the first discovery of the remains of animals of which most have since disappeared from this part of the world, and thus revealing the nature of the animal inhabitants of Great Britain previous to the arrival of man. In addition to the above account of the bones of animals found in caves in Great Britain, Dr. Buckland described many from the Continent,

Dr.
Buckland.

'Reliquiæ
Diluvianæ.'

as the bones of hyænas found in the cavern of Lemel, near Montpellier, and the bones of bears found in the Grotto of Osselles, or Quingey, near Besançon." In 1845 Dr. Buckland received, at the hands of Sir Robert Peel, the Deanery of Westminster. "In the year 1850 his brain gave way under the excessive activity to which it had been exposed, and from that time to this he has never recovered sufficiently to attend to his scientific pursuits."

Big Ben.

"Big Ben" is "announced" on August 30th : "The new bell for the Palace at Westminster has been heard. It was successfully cast by John Warner & Sons, of Cripplegate, London. Its tone is E natural, and the weight above fifteen tons. The referees were Prof. Wheatstone, the Rev. W. Taylor, and Mr. Denison. The quarter bells will, like the great one, be cast at Norton, near Stockton-on-Tees."

William
Yarrell.

William Yarrell, author of the 'History of British Fishes' and 'History of British Birds,' died on the 1st of September. The obituary notice on the 13th states that he "was born, in June 1784, in Duke Street, St. James's, where his father carried on the business of a newspaper agent, in which the son succeeded him ; and which the latter continued to pursue in partnership with his relation, Mr. Jones, until the death of the latter, a few years since.

Latterly he retired wholly from business, and gave himself up to his scientific pursuits. In early and middle life Mr. Yarrell was much devoted to field sports, particularly shooting and angling, in both of which he excelled, for the same cause as occasioned his excellence in whatever he undertook,—a thorough determination to master its difficulties, and a steady perseverance, which no obstacle could impede.On becoming attached to the study of natural history, however, which took place not less than forty years since, he gradually gave up his former pursuits, and we believe that he neither handled the gun nor the rod for the last thirty years.From his fondness for the two branches of sport above mentioned, it happened that the two classes of the animal creation which most engaged his attention were birds and fishes,—and his well-known works on the natural history of such of these classes as inhabit our islands are still, and will always continue, the text-books of British naturalists, on account of the truthfulness, the scientific accuracy, and the simple, yet graphic, descriptions by which they are characterized. From the time when he adopted this study he felt the full power of its fascination ; and although he never sacrificed the duties of his business to his favourite pursuit, he found time in the intervals

His works.

to master them, and every collateral subject which he attempted. He became, in fact, one of the most distinguished naturalists in this country."

Panic at the
Surrey
Music Hall.

Its lessons.

On the evening of Sunday, October 19th, while about 7,000 persons were assembled at the Surrey Music Hall to hear Mr. Spurgeon, a disturbance, supposed to have been originated by some evil-disposed persons acting in concert, caused the whole congregation to be seized with a sudden panic, and in the fearful rush to the doors seven lives were sacrificed and twenty-eight persons were removed to the hospital seriously bruised and injured. The *Athenæum* on the 25th says: "The report and the recollection of a scene so frightful, and its consequences, ought not to speak in vain,—let surveyors be ever so supine, and architects ever so thoughtless, and proprietors ever so selfish in refusing to entertain plans of staircase and portal improvement as wasteful. Without falling into a panic, the matter should be urged most strenuously;—and the present is the time.—The *Sacred Harmonic Society*, now an established and important tenant of Exeter Hall, seems year by year to memorialize—always vainly—in the hope of getting for its public, not luxury, but common safety in sufficient outlets.—We observe, too, that the *Builder* is criticizing the plans for the

projected *St. James's Hall*, and inquiring how far they offer the necessary relief for the thousands invited thither.....Is it Utopian to inquire whether, with the co-operation of the *Sacred Harmonic Society*, these undertakings could not now be combined so as to give birth to some grand plan which should provide London with some noble and habitable public-room, or set of public-rooms, such as would befit the metropolis?"

The "Weekly Gossip" of November 1st says :
 "At the dinner given to Mr. Peabody by his townsmen in the United States after twenty years' absence in England, among other circumstances indicative of Mr. Peabody's princely liberality, the fact not generally known was stated, that the Grinnell Expedition, commanded by Dr. Kane, was indebted to Mr. Peabody for its equipment. This gentleman, anticipating the usual laxity of Congress, came forward with an offer of 10,000 dollars to equip the *Advance*, which Mr. Grinnell had placed at the service of Dr. Kane. The offer was accepted,—the money paid, and the Expedition fitted out. Thus, our Admiralty, when they gave Mr. Grinnell a silver vase as a recognition of his services in aid of the search for the Franklin Expedition, overlooked—though we feel sure unintentionally—the equally valued and effective aid of Mr. Peabody in the cause of humanity."

Mr. Peabody
and the
Grinnell
expedition.

Thomas
Bailey.

The death, at the age of seventy-two, of Thomas Bailey, author of 'Records of Longevity,' is mentioned on the same date.

First bronze
coin.

Note is made on the 6th of December of the first coin ever issued by the Government in bronze—a new halfpenny for currency in Nova Scotia.

John
Kenyon.

On the same date is recorded the death, in the Isle of Wight, of John Kenyon, "known to the outer world by his 'Rhymed Plea for Tolerance' (a didactic poem in the style of the past dynasty of poets) and other collections of fugitive verse.....By the inner world of English poets and London society Mr. Kenyon will be missed and remembered as a man of graceful and genial mind, who had been the intimate and helpful friend of Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Southey, who delighted in the exercise of hospitality, and whose munificence was as wide as it was delicately administered." On the 20th it is stated that "scarcely a man or woman distinguished in the world of letters with which he was familiar has passed unremembered in his will; and some poets and children of poets are endowed with a princely

His legacies to
Mr. and Mrs.
Browning,
Mr. Procter,
and
Southey.

munificence. Among those who have shared most liberally in this harvest of goodwill, we are happy to hear that Mr. and Mrs. Browning receive 10,000*l.*, Mr. Procter (Barry Cornwall),

6,000*l.*, and Dr. Southey a very handsome sum, we think, 8,000*l.* We hear that there are about eighty legatees,—many of them the old literary friends of the deceased poet."

Dr. John Ayrton Paris died on Wednesday, the 24th of December, and on the 27th the obituary states that he was born at Cambridge in 1785, "and was entered as a pupil of Caius College, where he was distinguished for his classical knowledge. He came to London at the early age of twenty-two, and was appointed Physician to the Westminster Hospital. Circumstances, however, occurred, which led him to settle at Penzance in Cornwall. Here his active mind was attracted to the study of geology, and he became the founder of the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall, one of the earliest societies devoted to the study of geology in England. He pursued geology with great ardour, and published several papers on the subject of geology, but more especially one on the 'Geology of Cornwall,' which appeared in the Transactions of the Society he had founded. He invented an instrument named the 'Tamping-bar,' by which miners could obtain light in mines without the hazard of setting fire to the inflammable gases they contained." In 1810 Dr. Paris returned to London, and commenced a career of scientific and professional industry. "Dr.

Dr. Paris.

Life of Sir
Humphry
Davy.

Paris's chemical knowledge made him acquainted with Sir Humphry Davy, and on the death of the latter Dr. Paris was appointed to write his life. Although some points in this work afterwards became subjects of dispute, and led to the publication of another life, yet the work of Dr. Paris has always maintained its position and been regarded as one of the most elegant pieces of biography in our language. Another of his works, published anonymously, but which will henceforth appear with his name, was the 'Philosophy in Sport made Science in Earnest.' This little work, which has run through many editions, and is read wherever the English language is known, is indicative of the extent of the author's knowledge and of his power of explaining the principles of science in the most intelligible language." In 1844 Dr. Paris was elected President of the London College of Physicians, which office had been filled by Sir Henry Hallford.

'Philosophy
in Sport
made Science
in Earnest.'

Hugh Miller. The sad death of Hugh Miller, the geologist, is also recorded on the same date.

CHAPTER XIV.

STRAY NOTES—SCOTT, LAMB, COLERIDGE,
MRS. HEMANS, HOGG.

SCOTT.

THE first mention made in the *Athenæum* of Sir Walter Scott is in the fourteenth number (published on the 11th of March, 1828), in 'Sketches of Contemporary Authors: No. IX.—Sir Walter Scott'; and from that date until his death scarcely a number is published without some reference to him. On the 7th of May Sir Walter Scott's sermons are noticed, Sir Walter Scott. 'Religious Discourses: by a Layman,' followed 'Religious Discourses : by a Layman.' on the 21st by a review of 'Chronicles of the Canongate,' second series. On the 12th of November appears a review of 'The Keepsake,' the first tale in the volume being by Scott, entitled 'My Aunt Margaret's Mirror.' 'My Aunt Margaret's Mirror.' On the 27th of May, 1829, it is announced that upwards of 4,000 copies of Scott's new novel, 'Anne of Geierstein,' have been subscribed, and of Lockhart's 'Life of Napoleon Buonaparte,' 6,000.

On the 24th of April, 1830, it is stated that "cheap editions of Sir Walter Scott's works are now publishing at Naples, which are said to surpass any that have appeared." "A dark chapter in human nature! a book on demonology and witchcraft, by Sir Walter Scott!" is reviewed on the 18th of September, 1830, being

'Letters on
Demonology.'

'Letters on Demonology and Witchcraft, addressed to J. G. Lockhart, Esq.' The review was written by Sir Walter Scott's old acquaintance Allan Cunningham, who declares that "the devil is in the book, we think, for we cannot get it out of our heads."

Allan
Cunningham's
visit to
Abbotsford.

On August 13th, 1831, and again on the 20th, Allan Cunningham gives an account of a visit to Abbotsford. "Out of the dozen times at least that we have had the honour of being in his company, we never found him so shrewd, so anecdotish, and so agreeably companionable. His foot, as he said of Rob Roy, was on his native heath, and we were his guests; yet to be pleasant cost him no effort, and his wit ran as readily as the waters of the Tweed. His hair is as white as the 'Dinlay snow'; and we could not help involuntarily blessing him as he passed before us into his halls and libraries, to show us his fine collections of books, and armour, and weapons." On returning to the house after Scott had taken him for a ride to "show

what was most worth seeing in the land," "wine was placed on the table, and along with the wine, and to do us especial grace, as we believed, the ancient drinking quaighs or cups of the house of Scott were produced, and into the most venerable the hand of the Poet poured the dearest and best of distillations, namely, whiskey. We raised it devoutly—we speak considerably—to our lips, and, when it was drained, we perceived in the bottom an antique Scottish coin, and were informed that we had drunk from the cup of that Scott who refused to cut his beard till the restoration of Charles the Second. Another cup was there, made from Queen Mary's yew-tree; besides others of equal renown—some large, some small, all elegantly formed, and hooped and brimmed with silver." In the sitting-room of the poet's youngest daughter "there are books good store, and drawings not a few—many from the pencil of Turner; moreover, there was a stretching-frame, on which her needle was tracing, in various colours, the figure of a knight in the act of urging his courser to the charge;—there were no paste gems or frippery; yet all was strictly feminine."

In an article on 'Count Robert of Paris,' on the 20th of August, it is stated that the novel "is not yet finished. But, to secure the copy-

Scott's
drinking cups.

'Count Robert
of Paris.'

right, it is necessary that it should be published simultaneously in America and in England ; for that purpose, the proof-sheets are regularly transmitted across the Atlantic, and the American bookseller, less cautious or less particular than Mr. Cadell, has given the following very copious extract to the *National Gazette*, a literary Philadelphia paper, for a copy of which we are indebted to the same kind friend, to whom we have so often expressed our obligations. This is rather a strange and circuitous channel, to get an early notice of a work written at Abbotsford, and to be published in Edinburgh ; but if there be any truth in the old proverb, ‘ far fetched, and dear bought,’ &c., this specimen has journeyed miles enough, to be especially welcome to our lady readers.” The *Athenæum* then gives the quotation. On the same date the result of the sale of the MSS. of the Waverley Novels is given :—“ The manuscripts were all in Sir Walter Scott’s handwriting, neat, clean, and in green morocco bindings. If they are, as reported, the first draughts of the works, we should think there is not a similar example of facility in composition. The erasures and alterations were so few, as in our judgment to take away much of the interest, that under other circumstances might be presumed to attach to the MSS. of such a man. The total

Sale of MSS.
of the
Waverley
Novels.

produce of the sale was 317*l.*, and the prices of each lot, and the purchasers, as follows :—The Monastery, bought by Mr. Thorpe, 18*l.*—Guy Mannering, Mr. Thorpe, 27*l.* 10*s.*—Old Mortality, 33*l.*—The Antiquary, Capt. Basil Hall, 42*l.*—Rob Roy, — Wilks, M.P., 50*l.*—Peveril of the Peak, Mr. Cochrane, 42*l.*—Waverley, — Wilks, M.P., 18*l.*—The Abbot, 14*l.*—Ivanhoe, Mr. Rumbold, 12*l.*—The Pirate, Molteno & Graves, 12*l.*—The Fortunes of Nigel, 16*l.* 16*s.*—Kenilworth, — Wilks, M.P., 17*l.*—The Bride of Lammermoor, Capt. Basil Hall, 14*l.* 14*s.*”

On the 10th of December it is announced that Sir Walter has left England. “He is now in a finer climate than ours, and may it return him to us with renewed health and strength: he cannot be called an old man: some of the noblest monuments of genius have been reared by men much older.” On December 31st it is stated that he has arrived at Malta, and that “he has written a long and graphic account of Graham’s Volcanic Island, and sent it to Scotland, where it was read to a large audience of the learned, who rejoiced in the restored health of their illustrious countryman.”

Scott leaves
England.

On the 4th of February, 1832, it is announced “with the greatest pleasure” that “letters from Sir Walter Scott’s own hand are in town, up to the middle of January, by which we are rejoiced

His return.

to learn that his health is good. He had gone ashore in the middle of December, so that his detention through quarantine had either been short or had been relinquished ; he is residing for the present in Naples." On the 16th of June it is stated that "Sir Walter Scott has arrived in London, and is alarmingly ill. In descending the Rhine, he had another attack of paralysis, and, but for the presence of mind of his servant, who ventured to bleed him on the spot, it would, it is believed, have proved fatal. He has quite lost the use of one side, and but little hopes are entertained of his recovery." On the 30th of June Mr. Chorley contributes a poem, 'Sir Walter Scott's Return to England,' in which the following verse appears :—

"The summer brings him back—ah ! woeful day,
 When the tired wanderer finds his native shore,
 Not with the buoyant step, the promise gay
 Of active health, to gladden us once more—
 Lies not Life's secret in his treasured lore?—
 Vain thought—how vain !—a cloud of boding fears
 Sinks on the anxious heart, and loads the eyes with
 tears."

Leaves
London for
Abbotsford.

On Saturday, the 7th of July, Sir Walter Scott left London for Abbotsford. As he was borne from the hotel to his carriage, a man cried, "God bless you, sir, and better health to you !" On the same day the *Athenæum* announces :

“We hear with deep concern that the days of the illustrious Author of ‘Waverley’ are numbered.” On the 29th of September his death is thus referred to: “The manner of his going is the saddest story that has ever been told of a son of genius. He made himself responsible for immense debts which he did not, strictly speaking, contract; he refused to become a bankrupt, considering, like the elder Osbaldistone of his own immortal pages, commercial honour as dear as any other honour, and set himself the colossal task of paying every penny of one hundred and twenty thousand pounds. In six short years—are we writing truth or fiction?—he paid sixty thousand pounds of that money by his genius alone; but he crushed his spirit in the gigantic struggle; or, in plain words, sacrificed himself in the attempt to restore his broken fortunes. By the terms of the arrangement which Sir Walter made with his creditors, Abbotsford will be sold to pay the residue of the debt. This must not be.....Let the country which he has enriched as much as he has adorned, fulfil the engagement of its illustrious son. Britain owes him millions; we call upon her to pay a small portion of the debt, and win back Abbotsford—houses and lands—to the children of the poet for ever and ever.....The *Times* newspaper, with its usual

His death.

Abbotsford.

energy and proper warmth, is of our opinion, we observe : and we trust, that, before our Memoir makes its appearance next week, the subscription will be full and complete. We need not add, that the family of the poet know nothing of this : their feeling of independence is as strong as their illustrious father's ; but, as we said before, the question lies between the country and Sir Walter's creditors, and we have no doubt that it will be satisfactorily settled."

Life of Scott
by Allan
Cunningham.

The *Athenæum* of the 6th of October devotes the entire number to 'Some Account of the Life and Works of Sir Walter Scott, Bart.,' by Allan Cunningham. Mr. Cunningham relates : "The first time that I had the happiness of being introduced to the Author of Waverley, was soon after the publication of 'Ivanhoe,' when he came to London, and the king made him Sir Walter Scott, of Abbotsford, Baronet. This was in the early part of the year 1820. I had seen him in Edinburgh in the year of Marmion's appearance, and, to tell the truth, I went there almost on purpose to see him. He lived then in North Castle Street ; he was full cheeked and fair to look upon ; walked with a slight halt, and seemed in every respect one of the most powerful men of the North. He was much changed when I met him again in London ; his face was grown thin, his brow wrinkled, and

his hair grey ; during the period of the composition of 'Ivanhoe,' a grievous illness attacked him, which brought him nigh the grave, and he was not even then quite recovered.....When I went to Sir Walter's residence in Piccadilly, I had much of the same palpitation of heart which Boswell experienced when introduced to Johnson: he welcomed me with both hands, and with such kind and complimentary words, that confusion and fear alike fled. He turned the conversation upon song, and said, he had long wished to know me, on account of some songs which were reckoned old, but which he was assured were mine ; 'at all events,' said he, 'they are not old—they are far too good to be old : I dare say you know what songs I mean.' I was now much embarrassed ; I neither owned the songs nor denied them, but said, I hoped to see him soon again, for that, if he were willing to sit, my friend, Mr. Chantrey, was anxious to make his bust—as a memorial, to preserve in his collection, of the Author of 'Marmion.' To this he consented.....So much was he sought after while he sat to Chantrey, that strangers begged leave to stand in the sculptor's galleries, to see him as he went in and out. The bust was at last finished in marble ; the sculptor laboured most anxiously, and I never saw him work more successfully : in one long sitting of three hours

Scott in
Piccadilly.

he chiselled the whole face over, communicating to it the grave humour and comic penetration for which the original was so remarkable. This fine work is now in Abbotsford, with an inscription, saying, it is a present to Sir Walter Scott from Francis Chantrey;—I hope it will never be elsewhere.”

Bust presented
to him by
Chantrey.

Sir Walter died on the 21st of September without any appearance of pain. “On his head being opened, part of the brain was found injured; several globules of a watery nature were pressing upon it. He was buried at Dryburgh, on Wednesday, September 25th: the hills were covered, and the villages filled with mourners: he was borne from the hearse by his own domestics, and laid in the grave by the hands of his children.” Mr. Cunningham thus describes Scott. In person he “was nearly six feet high, well formed, strongly knit and compactly built; his arms were long and sinewy; his looks stately and commanding, and his face as he related a heroic story flushed up as a crystal cup, when one fills it with wine. His eyes were deep seated under his somewhat shaggy brows; their colour was a bluish grey: they laughed more than his lips did at a humorous story: his tower-like head, and thin white hair, marked him out amongst a thousand, while any one might swear to his voice again

Funeral at
Dryburgh.

Personal
appearance.

who heard it once, for it had both a touch of the lisp and the burr, yet, as the minstrel said of Douglas, 'it became him wonder well,' and gave great softness to a sorrowful story; indeed, I imagined that he kept the burr part of the tone for matters of a facetious or humorous kind, and brought out the lisp part in those of tenderness or woe. When I add, that in a meeting of a hundred men, his hat was sure to be the least, and would fit no one's head but his own, I have said all that I have to say about his appearance." Mr. Cunningham's biography thus concludes: "It is not to us alone that he has spoken: his voice will delight thousands of generations unborn, and charm his country while wood grows and water runs."

In reference to the debts of Sir Walter, the *Athenæum* states at the end of the memoir that "a correspondent informs us that the amount of the debt is now reduced to 53,000*l.*; and, as a set-off against this sum, the trustees have between 9 and 10,000*l.* in hand, and his life insurance for 22,000*l.*, leaving a balance of about 21,000*l.*; which, we have no doubt, will be raised in the course of a week, the creditors settled with, and Abbotsford preserved for his family." On the 12th of January, 1833, it is announced that the Queen of Spain has subscribed 20*l.* for the public monument to be erected in Edinburgh;

His debts.

and on the 23rd of March that her Majesty has, in addition, given 20*l.* to the Abbotsford subscription.

Lockhart's
reply to the
trustees of
James
Ballantyne.

The following appears in the *Athenæum* of March 30th, 1839, in reference to the publication of Mr. Lockhart's 'Reply to the Statement put forth by the Son and Trustees of the late James Ballantyne': "We have read it with attention, and are, more than ever, convinced, that it would be impossible for us to unravel the mystery, which is involved in a voluminous mass of unsettled accounts, extending over a long series of years. In offering an opinion heretofore on the Ballantyne Statement, we assumed that its general accuracy was not denied, because it had remained long undisputed. Mr. Lockhart, however, has fully justified what he said in the 'Life of Scott,' of the utter want of prudence and business habits of the Ballantynes: he has fully proved, that the printing and bookselling concerns were not only started and upheld by the genius and influence of Scott, but by his money; and that the Ballantynes were, from the first, penniless, if not involved; but he has not shown, at least to our satisfaction, that the indolence and negligence of James Ballantyne was—a main cause of the ruin of Scott—all parties were ruined by Ballantyne *and Company*; and each, in his way, appears to have helped

effectually to bring about the consummation. That Sir Walter Scott was, from first to last, in utter ignorance of the true position of the concern, is, we think, equally well established ; but we must believe that James Ballantyne was no better informed, or he would have remained the salaried servant of the insolvent Company, rather than have solicited, in 1822, (only four years before the final and lamentable close and ruin,) to be admitted a partner. However, both Statements are now before the public ; and we have only to express our regret, that the tone and temper of the Reply are as little to our taste as were those of the original Statement."

The *Athenæum* of August 22nd, 1840, states that the ceremony of laying the first stone of the monument to Scott at Edinburgh took place on the previous Saturday. On the 13th of July, 1844, it is said : " Upwards of 1,000*l.* of the sum wanting to complete the Edinburgh Monument to the Memory of Sir Walter Scott, has been produced by a 'Waverley Ball,' held, in London, at Willis's Rooms, and attended by 1,438 persons, including many of the most distinguished names in society. A procession of the characters in the Waverley Novels made a portion of the evening's entertainments." On the 9th of November it is stated : " The crowning stone of the Scott Monument, in Edinburgh, whose foun-

The Scott
monument.

dation was laid upwards of four years ago, was placed, with Masonic ceremony, on the 26th ult." The block of marble for the statue "was only unshipped a few days ago; and will require, it is said, 'twenty-five horses to draw it to Edinburgh.'" The monument was completed in 1846.

William
Laidlaw.

On the 2nd of August, 1845, Mr. Cunningham writes on the death of Mr. William Laidlaw, "the affectionate friend and steward of Sir Walter Scott." Mr. Laidlaw died on the 18th of May, in his sixty-fifth year. On March 27th, 1847, the death of Gabriel Young, hunter, Kilmaurs, at the age of eighty-three, is recorded. He is "understood to have been the character mentioned in 'Guy Mannering' as 'Todd Gibbie, or Hunter Gibbie,'—'a fell fox hunter, down the country somewhere on the Dumfries' side.'"

Gabriel
Young.

Extinction of
the Scott
baronetcy.

The *Athenæum* of the 24th of April mentions "the extinction of the baronetcy of Abbotsford by the death of Sir Walter Scott, on his voyage to England from Madras.....The Abbotsford property passes to the surviving grandson of the author of 'Waverley'—the son of Mr. Lockhart, the editor of the *Quarterly Review*."

The following note in reference to Abbotsford appears on January 20th, 1849: "The present proprietor of the estate is Mr. Lockhart's son, Walter Scott Lockhart Scott, a lieutenant in the 16th Lancers. The rental,

it is said, does not exceed 900*l.* a year. To this we may add, that Mr. Cadell is in treaty for the entire sale of Sir Walter Scott's writings. Sums have been asked for the whole ; others, it is said, offered and refused :—all so large that we are afraid to mention them."

Rental of
Abbotsford

Mr. Robert Cadell, the eminent bookseller, and friend and publisher of Sir Walter Scott, died at Ratho House on the 20th of January, 1849, and an obituary notice is given of him in the *Athenæum* of the 27th: "He was the son-in-law and successor of Archibald Constable, and rose into eminence as a publisher on the ruin of the celebrated firm of Scott, Constable & Ballantyne. It was Mr. Cadell who suggested to Scott the republication of his novels and romances in monthly five-shilling volumes ; and it was Mr. Cadell's tact and sagacity as a publisher that ultimately righted Scott's affairs, and set—as we recorded last week to be the case—the whole estate of Abbotsford free from incumbrance. As his great hit was the monthly five-shilling issue of the novels, so his great mistake was his so-called Abbotsford edition,—which is said to have cost him upwards of thirty-five thousand pounds, and is known to have been a heavy article on his shelves.....Latterly he confined his attention to working the Scott copyrights in every possible shape for a speedy

Robert
Cadell.

sale. This he did so well, that he has died possessed of a handsome estate in land, a large sum of realized money, and the entire copyright of the complete works of Sir Walter Scott. Within the comparatively short period of twenty-two years, Mr. Cadell was able to make as large a fortune through the works of one author alone as old Jacob Tonson succeeded in scraping together after fifty years' dealings with at least fifty authors, and with patent rights for Government printing, which Mr. Cadell never had. This large sum is the more remarkable when it is remembered that the writings of Scott were not first published by Mr. Cadell—that his fortune was made by the sale of works of which the public had already bought so largely that many were in their fifth and sixth editions."

The original
MS. of
'Waverley.'

The original MS. of 'Waverley,' wholly in the handwriting of Sir Walter Scott, the sale of which in 1831 has been already referred to, "has just been," the *Athenæum* announces on the 23rd of November, 1850, "presented to the Advocates' Library at Edinburgh by Mr. James Hall, brother of the late Capt. Basil Hall. At the sale alluded to, the MS. was bought by Mr. Wilks, M.P., for something under 20*l.*,—and it was sold by that gentleman the next week to Mr. Hall at Mr. Hall's price of forty guineas. It is a well-known fact to all readers of Scott,

that the novel of 'Waverley' was commenced about the year 1805, and laid aside in an old cabinet till 1813,—when it was again taken up, completed, and published:—we need hardly add with what success. The MS., both in the dated water-marks of the paper and by features in the handwriting, confirms and illustrates the story of the delay. It is not perhaps generally known that the trustees of the Advocates' Library were in treaty for the purchase of the whole of the MSS., and actually offered more for them than they realized at the sale. While we regret that the offer of the Advocates was not accepted, and the MSS. kept together for public use and general gratification,—we are pleased to think that, all circumstances considered, the most interesting of the MSS. (thanks to Mr. Hall) has been added to the treasures of the noblest library in Scotland."

The sale of the entire stock and copyrights of the life and works of Sir Walter Scott took place at the London Coffee House on Wednesday, the 26th of March, 1851, Mr. Hodgson being the auctioneer. The *Athenæum* of the 29th states: "The stock had been valued at 10,109*l.* 3*s.*—a very low figure indeed:—but the matter was open to reference afterwards. The two things must be sold as one:—the purchaser of the copyright must take the stock. At

Sale of the
copyrights.

length 5,000*l.* was offered,—followed up by 5,500*l.* :—and so, on the biddings went by jumps of 500*l.* at a time till the figure had reached 10,000*l.* In this stage of the contest fresh questions began to arise :—‘Were Mr. Cadell’s trustees bidders on this occasion?’ ‘Was there a reserved price?’ ‘Yes,’ it was answered; ‘they retain—and perhaps will exercise—the right of bidding.’ Then followed another 500*l.* leap : Mr. Bohn and the Row retiring,—and the struggle lying between Mr. Virtue and some imaginary bidder to be seen only by the eyes of the auctioneer. At 13,500*l.* Mr. Virtue gave way; and after a further rivalry the hammer sounded, and the copyrights were ‘bought in’ at 15,000*l.* :—making the figure, including the stock, 25,109*l.* 3*s.*”

Mr. Cadell’s
payments,

A communication from Mr. James Mylne, on the part of Mr. Cadell’s trustees, appears on the 12th of April. Mr. Mylne says : “Mr. Cadell actually paid for the purchase of the copyrights, between the years 1828 and 1848, no less a sum than 37,000*l.*..... It may serve as a ‘Curiosity of Literature’ to give a summary of the whole printing done of the Writings and Life since 1st June, 1829, when they came under the management of the late proprietor, Mr. Cadell :—

	Circulation.
Waverley Novels	78,270 sets.
Poetical Works	41,340
Prose Works	8,260
Life	26,860
Tales of a Grandfather (independently of those included in the complete sets of the Prose Works)	22,190
Selections	7,550

As a proof of the extraordinary popularity to which the 'People's Edition' of the Writings and Life has attained, I may further state that the following numbers, originally published in weekly sheets, have been printed :—

Novels	7,115,197
Poetry	674,955
Prose	269,406
Life	459,291
Total sheets	8,518,849"

On the 10th of May the *Athenæum* states, on the authority of the *Scotsman*, that the whole of the copyrights, stock, &c., of Sir Walter Scott's works have been transferred to Messrs. Adam & Charles Black. On July 26th the sale is recorded of the original MS. of 'Kenilworth' for 16*l.*, being 1*l.* less than Mr. Wilks gave for it in 1831.

Copyrights
purchased by
A. & C.
Black.

Mr. Walter Scott Lockhart Scott, of Abbotsford, son of Mr. Lockhart, and grandson of

Death of
Mr. Lockhart
Scott.

Sir Walter Scott, died, unmarried, on the 10th of January, 1853, at the age of twenty-seven. The *Athenæum* of the 15th states: "When Sir Walter died he left two sons* and a grandson to perpetuate the lineage of his house; and it is difficult to conceive that even a chance thought could have crossed his mind that all three should die childless and abroad in the short space of twenty years."

Hon. Mrs.
Maxwell
Scott.

The nearest relative now surviving (1888) of Sir Walter Scott is his great-granddaughter, the Hon. Mrs. Maxwell Scott, of Abbotsford, *née* Mary Monica Hope Scott. Her father, the late J. R. Hope Scott, Q.C., married a daughter of J. G. Lockhart, who had married Sophia, Sir Walter's eldest daughter. Mary Monica is married to the Hon. J. C. Maxwell, third son of the thirteenth Lord Herries (a descendant of "Redgauntlet"), who assumed the name of Scott, and by whom she has a numerous family of sons and daughters.

Mrs. Scott has edited a catalogue of the armour and antiquities at Abbotsford, in which she says that the bust by Chantrey (*ante*, p. 497) was placed in its present position by young Sir Walter on the day of his father's funeral. Mention is also made of Prince Charlie's quaiigh, referred to on p. 491.

* The second son, Charles, died October 28th, 1841.

CHARLES LAMB.

Charles Lamb's contributions to the *Athenæum* include an article on the death of Munden, the comedian, February 11th, 1832; four papers 'On the Total Defect of the Quality of Imagination observable in the Works of Modern British Artists,' by "the Author of Essays signed 'Elia,'" which appeared January 12th, 19th, 26th, and February 2nd, 1833; 'Thoughts on Presents of Game,' by "Elia," on the 30th of November of the same year; 'Table Talk by the late Elia,' January 4th, May 31st, June 7th, and July 19th, 1834; and the following poems: — 'The Self-Enchanted,' January 7th, 1832; 'The Parting Speech of the Celestial Messenger to the Poet (from the Latin of Palingenius, in the "Zodiacus Vitæ"),' February 25th; 'Existence, considered in Itself, no Blessing,' also from the Latin of Palingenius (in which "the Poet, after a seeming approval of suicide, from a consideration of the cares and crimes of life, finally rejecting it, discusses the negative importance of existence, contemplated in itself, without reference to good or evil"), July 7th; 'Christian Names of Women (to Edith S——),' March 9th, 1833; 'To a Friend on his Marriage,' December 7th; 'To T. Stothard, Esq., on his Illustrations of the Poems of Mr. Rogers,' December 21st; 'Cheap

Charles
Lamb's
contributions
to the
Athenæum.

Gifts: a Sonnet,' February 15th, 1834; and 'To Clara N.,' on July 26th.

His death.

Charles Lamb died on Saturday, December 27th, 1834, at Edmonton, in his sixty-first year. A tribute to his memory is paid in the *Athenæum* of the following week, January 3rd, 1835, by his friend Mr. Procter: "It is with difficulty that we can bring ourselves to believe that he is dead. He was lately so full of life—apparently so full of health also. His mind was as fresh as ever—his wit as bright—his smile as sweet and as full of kindness." "His prejudices, which were rather humours than grave opinions,—his weaknesses, which never hurt one human being except himself—may sometimes have been talked of—by strangers. But it was the pride of his *friends*, that they had opportunities of seeing deeper into his heart, and could feel and avouch for his many virtues. As a man, he was gentle—sincere—benevolent—modest—charitable towards others—beyond most men. In the *large* sense of the word, he was eminently 'humane.'" Mr. Procter also contributes two papers, 'Recollections of Charles Lamb,' on the 24th of January and the 7th of February. A poem by Charles Lamb, 'To Margaret W——,' appears on March 14th.

S. T. COLERIDGE.

Allan Cunningham, in his 'Biographical and Critical History of the Literature of the last Fifty Years,' in the *Athenæum* of November 16th, 1833, thus refers to Coleridge: "He was born in the year 1773; was educated at Christ's Hospital, where he reached the rank of Grecian, and distinguished himself by his eloquence; he soon made himself known as a poet; married one of the sisters of Mrs. Southey; wrote political articles in a newspaper; delivered lectures on poetry; and published his collected works, in two beautiful volumes. He now resides near London, sees company on the Friday evenings, and sends away all strangers charmed with the eloquence of his conversation. He has written nothing of late: as his fame will be settled by his best poems, he is as sure of future reputation as any poet of this age."

Samuel
Taylor
Coleridge.

Allan
Cunningham
on
Coleridge.

The *Athenæum*, in its obituary notice of Coleridge on the 2nd of August, 1834, says: "We cannot but remember the hooting of derision with which 'Christabel' was received, on its first appearance; nor how, a year or two afterwards, when Lord Byron, in transplanting one of its images into his more popular 'Parasina,' took occasion to call it 'that singularly wild and beautiful poem,' many, and those

Death of
Coleridge.

The first
reception of
'Christabel.'

educated persons, regarded the praise as affectation, or, at best, as a condescending kindness. Since then, however, that fragment has crept up in public opinion, and been more quoted than perhaps any other poem of its length..... Many have grieved over the smallness of the number of Coleridge's works—they would have had much gold and silver, instead of the few diamonds of perfect water he has bequeathed to them."

Death of
Hartley
Coleridge.

The death of Hartley Coleridge, after a few weeks' illness, in the retirement of the Lake country, is announced on the 13th of January, 1849; and on the 20th the *Athenæum* has the following communication from Miss Martineau : "I went to Grasmere churchyard, to see Hartley Coleridge buried,—and I am glad I went. It was blowing and snowing when I set out, but was altogether bright before the little country hearse arrived.....The little light coffin was like that of a child. Before I came home it was neatly covered over with green sods. The churchyard and valley were far too green for January ; and the rushing Rotha washed the wall with a stream as full as in spring. The lake was glittering in sunshine too; but ghost-like old Helvellyn, which overhung all, was sheeted with fresh snow, and sun-touched here and there with exquisite softness."

MRS. HEMANS.

Mrs. Hemans died on the 12th of May, 1835. Mrs. Hemans. The obituary notice in the *Athenæum* of the 23rd, written by her old friend Mr. Chorley, states : “Felicia Dorothea Browne was born in Liverpool. Her father was a native of Ireland, her mother a German lady—a Miss Wagner—but descended from, or connected with, some Venetian family, a circumstance which she would playfully mention, as accounting for the strong tinge of romance and poetry which pervaded her character from her earliest childhood. The few who knew her, will long remember her eager child-like affection, and the sincere kindness with which, while she threw herself fully and frankly on their good offices, she adopted their interests as her own for the time being. It may be told, that when young, she was remarkable for personal attractions ; that her talents for music and drawing (merely another form of the spirit which was the living principle of her life) were of no common order. Her health had for many years been precarious and delicate : the illness of which she died was long and complicated, but, from the first, its close was foreseen ; and we know from those in close connexion with her, that her spirit was placid and resolved, and that she looked forward to the approach of the last struggle without a fear. It

is consolatory to add, that her dying moments were cheered by the kind offices of zealous and faithful friends : for herself, her departure from this world could only be a happy exchange. There is no fear of her being forgotten ; we shall long think of her—

Kindly and gently, but as of one
 For whom 'tis well to be fled and gone ;
 As of a bird from a chain unbound,
 As of a wanderer whose home is found ;—
 So let it be ! ”

JAMES HOGG.

James Hogg. An article on James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd, appears in the *Athenæum* of the 26th of February, 1828. The writer states : “ The present residence of the Ettrick Shepherd is within a short distance of the valley where he was born. His house, called Mount Benger, is situated on the side of one of the hills of Yarrow, and is supposed to occupy the site of an ancient monastery. Around him are the glens and the mountains over which he has wandered since childhood, and which he has celebrated in his song ; and from his windows he almost descries the placid mirror of St. Mary’s Loch, so accurately described in the introduction to the Second Canto of ‘ Marmion,’ and so often referred to in his own metrical traditions. He

His house,
 Mount
 Benger.

is one of the keenest and most skilful sportsmen in Scotland, especially as a brother of the angle ; and his time is divided between his fictions and his fishing-hooks.....The peasantry all know him, and his importance as a bard seems totally merged in his popularity as a shepherd. His appearance is clownish, but his expression is intellectual ; and the very roughness of his exterior indicates the gentleness of his heart. His social habits are all unreserved good humour, and he has a ceaseless flow of sparkling good spirits.....The origin of his predilection for poetry may, however, be traced to an early source : the valleys of the south of Scotland abound, like the mountains of Germany, with endless legends connected with themselves ; every glen has its tradition, every stream its tale, and every hill its history. These of course are confined to oral registrars, and during the long evenings of a dreary winter, their repetition forms the chief amusement of their secluded hearths. In a knowledge of these romantic chronicles, Hogg's mother was versed beyond the most skilful of her companions. Of the old Border Ballads, she retained many thousand verses fresh in her memory, which were deposited in no other record, and had, perhaps, never been immortalized in types, but communicated from gene-

His
appearance.

His mother
and Sir
Walter Scott.

ration to generation like the learning of the Druids. It was from her lips that Sir Walter Scott wrote down several of the most interesting ballads in his *Border Minstrelsy*, and many, which she alone could have repeated, died with her uncommunicated."

His presence
at the Burns
dinner.

His speech.

The *Athenæum* of the 28th of January, 1832, states: "Little else has been talked of these ten days, in the literary world of London, but the Festival in memory of the birthday of Burns and the visit of the Ettrick Shepherd." Sir John Malcolm, the chairman, proposed "the health of the Ettrick Shepherd," which Hogg replied to. "He related how the inspiration of the muse came upon him, in consequence of his being born, like Burns, on the 25th of January; how, on the evening of his birth, a man and a horse were dispatched for the midwife, but the night being wild, and Ettrick deep in flood, the rider was lost; nevertheless, the familiar spirit called Brownie—the Lubber-Fiend of Milton—supplied his place, and brought the marvelling midwife in time to achieve the adventure of the future poet of Kilmeny. All this, and much more, he related in a way hovering between jest and earnest, and in a strong Ettrick tone, to the consternation of the English part of the meeting, for whom it was rather peculiar and learned. The audience evi-

dently, one and all, regarded the Shepherd with wonder, and hundreds were on tiptoe to have a look at him as he stood on a table to relate his own varied fortunes." The chairman gave the health of "Sir Walter Scott, and a safe return to his native country." This was acknowledged by Mr. Lockhart. Of his illustrious father-in-law he told how "Burns predicted his future fame, in the house of Adam Ferguson; and of Hogg he related how Scott found him, thirty-five years ago, with his plaid and dog, watching his sheep on Ettrick Banks, with more old border ballads on his memory than any traditionary dame of the district, and with more true poetry in his heart than was usual to the lot of poets."

James Hogg died on Saturday, the 21st of November, 1835. The *Athenæum* in its obituary notice on the 5th of December states: "He was, we believe, in his sixty-third year; we might add, on his own authority, that he was born on the 25th of January, 1772, the birthday of Robert Burns, but there has been so much harmless mystification on this subject, that we are by no means certain that it is the fact. Hogg, as he delighted to tell the world, was born a shepherd—the son of many generations of shepherds—yet, humble as was his parentage, it was not below the reach of misfortune; and, at six years of age, 'Jamie

His death.

the Poeter,' as he was subsequently called, was obliged to get his own living, and, for that purpose, engaged himself to herd cows for a neighbouring farmer; an occupation which he describes as the lowest in Scotland, yet not without its romance, as some of the anecdotes of his early life can bear witness."

Poem by
Wordsworth.

Wordsworth's poem "The Ettrick Shepherd. Extempore Effusion, upon reading, in the Newcastle Journal, the notice of the Death of the Poet, James Hogg," containing the well-known verse,

Nor has the rolling year twice measured,
From sign to sign, his stedfast course,
Since every Mortal Power of Coleridge
Was frozen at its marvellous source,

is inserted on the 12th of December.

On the 14th of March, 1885, "Memorials of 'Memorials.' James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd. Edited by his Daughter, Mrs. Garden," is reviewed. The work contains an interesting preface by Prof. Veitch.

CHAPTER XV.

STRAY NOTES—"L. E. L.," THEODORE HOOK,
SOUTHEY, JOHN MURRAY, CAMPBELL, HOOD,
WORDSWORTH.

"L. E. L."

MRS. MACLEAN—"L. E. L."—died suddenly at "L. E. L." Cape Coast Castle on the 15th of October, 1838. The *Athenæum* of the 5th of January, 1839, states that her death, "according to private letters," was "occasioned by medicine taken improperly, or in too large a quantity, for the relief of spasms to which she was subject—and was not, as might be supposed, the consequence of a climate proverbially fatal to English residents. But a few days before the tidings arrived, there were letters in town from Mrs. Maclean, in which she wrote cheerfully of her position and her future literary plans, making the best of her strange and dismal place of sojourn, by saying, that its palms and cocoa-trees reminded her of her favourite book—the Arabian Nights.Mrs. Maclean was the daughter of an army-agent, and the niece of Dr. Landon, Dean of Exeter, whose death is also announced in

this week's papers; and the early loss of her father, and the early manifestation of a talent facile as it was fanciful, brought her before the world while yet a girl, as an enthusiastic and constant literary labourer. To her honour, it must be added, that the fruits of her incessant exertion were neither selfishly hoarded nor foolishly trifled away—but applied to the maintenance and advancement of her family..... Her private friends and her literary contemporaries, too, will remember her long—as one alike kind, affectionate, and liberal.”

Poem by
Elizabeth
Barrett
Browning.

A poem of nine verses by Elizabeth Barrett Browning, ‘L. E. L.’s Last Question,’ appears on the 26th of January :—

“Do you think of me as I think of you,
My friends, my friends?” She said it from the sea,
The English minstrel in her minstrelsy,
While, under brighter skies than erst she knew,
Her heart grew dark, and groped there as the blind
To reach across the waves, friends left behind—
“Do you think of me as I think of you?”

* * * * *

“Do you think of me as I think of you?”—
O friends, O kindred, O dear brotherhood
Of all the world! what are we that we should
For covenants of long affection sue?
Why press so near each other when the touch
Is barred by graves? Not much, and yet too much
Is this “Think of me as I think of you.”

But while on mortal lips I shape anew
 A sigh to mortal issues, verily
 Above the unshaken stars that see us die,
 A vocal pathos rolls; and HE who drew
 All life from dust, and for all tasted death,
 By death and life and love, appealing saith,
Do you think of me as I think of you ?

THEODORE HOOK.

Theodore Hook died on the 24th of August, 1841, and the *Athenæum* of September 4th mentions him as "especially to be remembered by his friends for his brilliant wit, humour, and unrivalled social qualities. It is difficult for those who knew him to believe that Mr. Hook ever did himself justice: he came precociously before the public, a mere boy, and he ever after hurried on, writing comedies, farces, novels, biographies, anything and off-handed, that jumped with his humour, or promised to relieve the necessities of the moment. His facility, indeed, almost passed belief; yet even the stories current of his extemporaneous verse-making, startling enough though they be to justify incredulity, are substantially true. It was after this hurried fashion that all his works were written: even his novels, by which he is most extensively known, are not novels in the legitimate meaning of the word: they do

Theodore
Hook.

not hold a mirror up to nature—they are farces ‘long drawn out’—pen-and-ink caricatures—which it was always pleasant to read, though not always possible to commend either critically or morally. Mr. Hook was the son of Hook the composer, of Vauxhall celebrity, and brother to Dean Hook, and uncle, therefore, to the present Vicar of Leeds. In 1813 he was appointed Treasurer of the Mauritius; but in 1818 he was sent home by the Governor as a prisoner and public defaulter to a large amount. He remained in confinement for some time; and how he obtained his release was never clearly understood by the public. It is generally believed that he was, soon after, actively engaged in establishing a Sunday newspaper, which, however sobered when he became its *known* editor, was infamous at starting for its libels on private character. It may be charitable to pass over these circumstances lightly—in our opinion it would be dishonest to pass them in silence.”

ROBERT SOUTHEY.

Robert
Southey.

The *Athenæum* of the 29th of January, 1828, in its ‘Sketches of Contemporary Authors,’ says of Southey: “A poet, a biographer, a writer of literary miscellanies, an antiquarian, a translator, an historian of campaigns, and churches, and

nations, a celebrated and voluminous reviewer, himself the object of frequent and bitter criticism; in his youth the framer of ideal republics, in his manhood the advocate of desolating wars and political monopolies, in his age the chronicler of methodism and martyrs, throughout life, as a member of private society, the most uniformly amiable and pure, and, at the same time, the fiercest and most unrelenting follower of a public faction:—Such are the various characters in which Mr. Southey stands before the public.....We consider Mr. Southey a poet of no higher than the second order—a judgment which we have come to when estimating him by his best and not by his worst poems, by ‘Roderick’ and ‘Kehama,’ not by the ‘Vision of Judgment,’ or the ‘Tale of Paraguay.’ Yet, though we think his poetry inferior to that of many other English authors, it seems to us to display his mind in a more nearly perfect state than we find it in any of his other kinds of writing. As mere composition, the verse is far from being so faultless as the prose.We regret that his poetry is not of a more condensed and concentrated character; for there is a delicacy and sweetness of feeling, and a splendour of descriptive diction, which, if less diluted and impoverished by verbiage, so as to outlast the fluctuations of the hour, would give

His poems.

as much delight to all future ages as they have already conferred on the instructed and gentle of our own day."

The *Athenæum* of the 7th of August, 1830, states: "The public owe to Dr. Southey a debt of gratitude, for the just and generous indignation with which he has spoken out on the subject of the poor, pitiful attack on Mr. Lamb in the *Literary Gazette*. He comes long after us, it is true, but, to the shame of the public press, he precedes most others; and he brings with him the weight and influence of a name that must secure the judgment from the mean insinuation of being influenced by a paltry feeling of rivalry." Then follows a poem by Southey, 'To Charles Lamb, on the Reviewal of his "Album Verses" in the *Literary Gazette*.'

Defence of
Lamb.

'Attempts in
Verse,' by
John Jones.

On the 26th of February, 1831, a notice appears of 'Attempts in Verse, by John Jones, an Old Servant; with some Account of the Writer, written by Himself; and an Introductory Essay on the Lives and Works of our uneducated Poets. By Robert Southey, Esq., Poet Laureate.' Notices of Southey appear on the 26th of October and on the 14th and 28th of December, 1833, in Allan Cunningham's 'Biographical and Critical History of the Literature of the last Fifty Years.' On the 4th of January, 1834, is a poem 'To Robert Southey,'

by Walter Savage Landor, dated from Florence, December, 1833.

Southey died on the 21st of March, 1843, and an obituary notice appears on the 25th. The *Athenæum* of the 8th of April says: "The remains of Southey were interred in the burial-ground attached to the parish church of Crosthwaite, where other members of the family are buried. Wordsworth attended the funeral.The Laureateship has been offered to and accepted by Wordsworth."

Death of
Southey.

The
Laureateship
accepted by
Wordsworth.

JOHN MURRAY.

Mr. John Murray—the John Murray of Lord John Murray. Byron—died on Tuesday, the 27th of June, 1843, at his house in Albemarle Street. The *Athenæum* of the 1st of July states: "His father was a bookseller of good circumstances and repute in Fleet Street, where John, the only son of a second marriage, was born, on the 22nd of November, 1778. Old Mr. Murray was the successor in trade (by purchase, we believe) of W. Sandby, for we read, in an advertisement of the year 1765, that 'Mr. Sandby's customers continue to be served with the same care as usual; and they and all other gentlemen in town or country who shall be pleased to favour J. Murray with their commands, may depend on having their commissions executed by him in

His father.

W. Sandby.

The poet
Falconer.

the speediest and best manner.' 'Langhorne's Plutarch,' 'Dalrymple's Annals,' and 'Mitford's Greece,' are three of old Mr. Murray's surviving publications. The poet Falconer was his intimate friend, and was to have entered into partnership with him on his return from a voyage in the *Aurora* frigate, the vessel in which poor Falconer was lost. A ship figures in full sail on the bill-heads of all Mr. Murray's old accounts. He had been originally in the Marines, which may account for his bookselling sign, and his friendship with Falconer. Mr. Murray's father died in 1793, when John was in his fifteenth year, an age too young to conduct the business unaided. He was, however, assisted by Mr. Samuel Highley, the assistant and shopman of old Mr. Murray, and the father of the present Mr. Highley, the bookseller, of Fleet Street. When Mr. Murray was of age, he entered into partnership with Highley, but this was not of long continuance, as the deed of separation is dated 25th March, 1803. They drew lots for the house, and Murray had the good fortune to remain at No. 32; Highley setting up for himself at No. 24, and taking away with him, by agreement, the large medical connexion of the firm, a connexion enjoyed by his son to this day. Mr. Murray now started on his own account, and began a career of publi-

Samuel
Highley.

cation unrivalled in the history of letters. Murray starts on his own account. D'Israeli's 'Curiosities of Literature,' and Strutt's 'Queenhoo Hall' were among his first publications. In 1807 he added 'The Art of Cookery,' by Mrs. Rundell, to his list, in 1809 the *Quarterly Review*, and in 1811 'Childe Harold.'..... The *Quarterly* was a work suggested by himself to counterbalance the effects of the *Edinburgh Review* (his letter to Canning on the subject is still in existence); and 'Childe Harold' was a poem of his own seeking, for he had been one of the first to foresee the budding genius of Lord Byron. He was a proud man, we have heard him say, when Dallas put the MS. of 'Childe Harold' into his hands. He had been a poet's publisher before, for he had a share in 'Marmion.' In 1806 he married a Miss Elliot, His marriage and removal to Albemarle Street. the daughter of Mr. Elliot, the bookseller in Edinburgh; and in 1812 he bought the stock-in-trade, the good-will and house of Miller, removing at the same time from No. 32, Fleet Street, to the well-known No. 50, in Albemarle Street. His enterprising spirit was at all times remarkable, and from this period his career was one of triumph." Mr. Murray left a widow, three daughters, and a son—the *third* John Murray, and present head of the firm in Albemarle Street.

THOMAS CAMPBELL.

Thomas
Campbell.

Becomes
editor of the
New Monthly.

His funeral in
Westminster
Abbey.

Thomas Campbell, the poet, died at Boulogne on Saturday, the 15th of June, 1844, and the *Athenæum* of the 22nd contains an obituary notice. In 1820 he became editor of the *New Monthly Magazine*, and remained so until 1830 in which year he lost his wife. He afterwards established the *Metropolitan Magazine*. Campbell was buried in Westminster Abbey on the 3rd of July, the Duke of Argyll, the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Morpeth, Lord Brougham, Lord Campbell, Lord Leigh, and Sir Robert Peel being the pall-bearers. The *Athenæum* says: "At that part of the service, where we 'commit his body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, and dust to dust,' one of the Polish exiles cast upon the coffin of their friend some earth which he had brought with him from the grave of the great Kosciusko."

THOMAS HOOD.

Thomas
Hood.

'The Gem: a Literary Annual,' by Thomas Hood, Esq., author of 'Whims and Oddities,' is reviewed in the *Athenæum* of the 15th of October, 1828; it was in this volume that 'Eugene Aram's Dream' appeared. 'The Epping Hunt,' illustrated with six engravings on wood, after the designs of George Cruikshank, is noticed on the 30th of Sep-

tember, 1829. During 1832 Hood contributed the following poems : 'To a Child embracing his Mother,' January 7th ; 'The Fall,' February 4th ; 'To Spencer Perceval, Esq., M.P.,' February 18th ; 'Ode to Admiral Lord Gambier, G.C.B.,' March 3rd ; and 'Miss Fanny's Farewell Flowers,' July 7th. In 1833 appeared 'A Sketch on the Road,' in prose, January 19th ; and 'Ode to Miss Kelly, on her Opening the Strand Theatre,' February 2nd.

On the 12th of October Hood writes : " With regard to my novel, the shell of 'Tylney Hall' 'Tylney Hall.' is completed, and the whole building, in one story, is expected to be printed and papered very early in December. You can treat in the meantime with parties who may be disposed to occupy themselves with the premises ; and a reading lease for a term of ninety-nine years will not be at all objected to." 'To ****, composed at Rotterdam,' appears in the *Athenæum* of July 4th, 1835. Three letters from Hood, 'Copyright and Copywrong,' appear on April 15th, 22nd, and 29th, 1837 ; and two additional letters on June 11th and 18th, 1842. The 'Ode to Rae Wilson, Esquire,' was printed on the 12th of August, 1837. 'The Ass Race,' which appeared in 'Sporting,' edited by Nimrod, is noticed on the 23rd of December. Hood's petition to the House of Commons appeared on the 29th of

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Hood's
"humble
petition."

June, 1839: "The humble Petition of the undersigned Thomas Hood, sheweth,—That your Petitioner is the proprietor of certain copyrights, which the law treats as copyhold, and which in justice and equity should be his freeholds. He cannot conceive how Hood's Own, without a change in the title deeds, as well as the title, can become Everybody's Own hereafter.....That as a man's hairs belong to his head, so his head should belong to his heirs; whereas, on the contrary, your Petitioner hath ascertained, by a nice calculation, that one of his principal copyrights will expire on the same day that his only son should come of age. The very law of nature protests against an unnatural law which compels an author to write for everybody's posterity—except his own."

Becomes
editor of the
New Monthly.

On the 2nd of October, 1841, it is announced that "Mr. T. Hood has succeeded Mr. T. Hook as editor of the *New Monthly Magazine*." 'Whimsicalities: a Periodical Gathering,' by Thomas Hood, 2 vols., is reviewed on the 30th of December, 1842.

His death.

Thomas Hood died on the 3rd of May, 1845, and the *Athenæum*, in its obituary notice of the 10th, states that he was "the son of Mr. Hood, the bookseller, of the firm of Vernor & Hood. He gave to the public an outline of his early life, in the 'Literary Reminiscences' published

in *Hood's Own*. He was, as he there states, early placed 'upon lofty stool, at lofty desk,' in a merchant's counting-house ; but his commercial career was soon put an end to by his health, which began to fail ; and by the recommendation of his physicians he was 'shipped, as per advice, in a Scotch smack,' to his father's relations in Dundee. There he made his first literary venture in the local journals ; subsequently he sent a paper to the *Dundee Magazine*, the editor of which was kind enough, as Winifred Jenkins says, 'to wrap my bit of nonsense under his Honor's kiver, without charging for its insertion.' Literature, however, was then only thought of as an amusement ; for, on his return to London, he was, we believe, apprenticed to an uncle as an engraver, and subsequently transferred to one of the Le Keux. But though he always retained his early love for art, and had much facility in drawing, as the numberless quaint illustrations to his works testify, his tendencies were literary, and when, on the death of Mr. John Scott, the *London Magazine* passed into the hands of Messrs. Taylor & Hessey, Mr. Hood was installed in a sort of sub-editorship. From that time his career has been open and known to the public."

His first
writings.

Mr. Shoberl writes on May 24th : "The author of the following very beautiful song was

the late Thomas Hood, who published it with a *nom de guerre*, when he was not known to literature. I have reason to believe that many exquisite productions by this highly-gifted writer must be lying, like wild flowers, scattered and unnoticed, which I fear it is impossible now to gather into his wreath. That it may not prove so, and that in an edition of his collected works will be preserved all his anonymous and graceful snatches, is the wish of

FREDERICK SHOBERL, JUN.

“ May 19, 1845.

Song by
Hood.

Song.

O lady, leave thy silken thread
And flowery tapestry :
There's living roses on the bush,
And blossoms on the tree ;
Stoop where thou wilt, thy careless hand
Some random bud will meet ;
Thou canst not tread, but thou wilt find
The daisy at thy feet.

'Tis like the birthday of the world,
When earth was born in bloom ;
The light is made of many dyes,
The air is all perfume ;
There's crimson buds, and white and blue—
The very rainbow show'rs
Have turned to blossoms where they fell,
And sown the earth with flowers.

There's fairy tulips in the East,
 The garden of the sun ;
 The very streams reflect the hues,
 And blossom as they run :
 While Morn opes like a crimson rose,
 Still wet with pearly showers ;
 Then, lady, leave the silken thread
 Thou twinest into flowers ! ”

The following appears on the 12th of December, 1846 : “ With great pain, we announce that the grave of poor Hood has been thus early reopened, to receive his wife to the companionship of death after a companionship of suffering from which she had scarcely had time allowed her to repose.”

Death of
 Mrs. Hood.

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.

William Wordsworth is the subject of a poem contributed by W. S. Landor to the *Athenæum* of February 1st, 1834.

William
 Wordsworth.
 Poem by
 W. S. Landor.

‘Yarrow Revisited, and other Poems,’ by William Wordsworth, is reviewed on the 18th of April, 1835. “ To come to such a book as this from the thousand volumes, presumptuous as shallow, which call themselves poetry, to the wearing of our eyes and the exhaustion of our hearts, is like turning aside out of some hot bustling street, deafened with its chatter and blinded with its glare, into a cool solemn cathedral, where every carved effigy and blazoned

‘Yarrow
 Revisited.’

window calls up a remembrance, and the spirit of the place is of silence and prayer ! ”

Reference is made on the 5th of September, 1840, to a visit paid by the Queen Dowager to the poet at Rydal Mount : “ This is, we believe, the first time that Poet has been so honoured in England. Pope declined a visit from Queen Caroline at Twickenham, but entertained Frederick, Prince of Wales, at his own table, and nodded in sleep, it is added, when the Prince was speaking of poetry.”

‘ Poems, chiefly of Early and Late Years,’ including *The Borderers*, a Tragedy, is reviewed in the *Athenæum* of August 27th, 1842. ‘ *The Borderers* ’ had lain for some fifty years “ unregarded ” amongst its author’s papers. On the 5th of November it is announced that Mr. Wordsworth has retired from the office held by him, his son being appointed his successor. The poet received a retiring pension of 300*l.* a year.

On April 8th, 1843, it is stated that Wordsworth has succeeded Southey as Poet Laureate. The *Athenæum* remarks on May 1st, 1847, that the post “ has been for many years considered little more than a sinecure. The fact that Mr. Wordsworth, who at present occupies that supposed ‘ easy chair,’ has to write an Ode for the installation of His Royal Highness Prince Albert as Chancellor of Cambridge, may help to

correct such opinion. No such themes are found in the dreamland which he has haunted all his days."

On the 19th of June, 1847, the *Athenæum* reviews the 'Journal of a Few Months' Residence in Portugal, and Glimpses of the South of Spain.' This work was by Mrs. Quillinan, the daughter of Wordsworth. The number published on the 17th of July records "the sad sequel of that southern journey, undertaken in search of health—the recent death of the authoress, from rapid decline, at Rydal Mount. Her book speaks for her gifts of heart and powers of mind: and they who are intimate with the history of Wordsworth's descriptive and domestic poems have further pointed out many traits in which she is painted—and many traces of the bright, refined, and affectionate spirit that gladdened the Poet's summer rambles and winter hearth. Something like a portrait from the hand of her father will be found in that charming lyric 'The Triad.'"

Death of his
daughter,
Mrs.
Quillinan.

During the March of 1850 disquieting news as to the poet's health had been received from Rydal, and the *Athenæum* of April 27th states that he died "among his native lakes and hills on the 23rd." The obituary notice remarks: "If Wordsworth was unfortunate—as he certainly was—in not finding any recognition of

His death.

his merits till his hair was grey, he was luckier than other poets similarly situated have been in living to a good old age, and in the full enjoyment of the amplest fame which his youthful dreams had ever pictured..... The lineaments of his face will be perpetuated by Chantrey's noble bust; not by the pictures of it, which in too many cases justify the description that he gave of one of them in our hearing—'It is the head of a drover, or a common juryman, or a writer in the *Edinburgh Review*, or a speaker in the House of Commons: as for the head of a poet, it is no such thing.'"

Chantrey's
bust.

'The
Prelude.'

'The Prelude, or Growth of a Poet's Mind; an Autobiographical Poem,' by William Wordsworth, is the subject of the first review on the 3rd of August, 1850. "This is the poem which nearly forty-five years ago was quoted by Coleridge in his 'Friend,' and distinguished amongst his 'Sibylline Leaves' as—

An Orphic tale indeed,—

A tale divine of high and passionate thoughts
To their own music chaunted,—

but which the author nevertheless kept back from the world, and reserved for posthumous publication. It was commenced, we are told, as early as 1799, and completed in 1805; occupying more than six years in composition. It

contains a sort of autobiography in blank verse, divided into fourteen books ; in which the poet records the incidents and feelings of his life from childhood,—his experiences at home, at Cambridge, in London, and in Paris during the period of the French Revolution, until his return to England.”

‘Memoirs of William Wordsworth, Poet Laureate, D.C.L.,’ by Christopher Wordsworth, ^{‘Memoirs of William Wordsworth.’} D.D., is reviewed on the 26th of April, 1851, and a second notice is given on the 3rd of May.

Christopher Wordsworth died in March, 1885, and on the 26th of May, 1888, in a review of ^{Christopher Wordsworth.} ‘Christopher Wordsworth, Bishop of Lincoln,’ by John Henry Overton and Elizabeth Wordsworth, the *Athenæum* states: “As a man of letters, as an admirable scholar, as a learned ecclesiastic, and, more than all, as a man of holy life and saintly character, Christopher Wordsworth added new lustre to the great name which he inherited.....However widely Canon Overton’s readers may differ from the late Bishop of Lincoln, they cannot fail to recognize the sincerity and force of his convictions, and to admire the martyr-spirit by which he was animated.”

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CORRIGENDA.

Pp. 114, 116, for "Chalons" read *Chalon*.

P. 106, for "Souberain" read *Soubeiran*.





